ENVIRONMENTAL
TECHNOLOGY
INC.

Environmental Consultants

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS

March 13, 2023

Ms. Beth Foley, Secretary
Mendham Township Planning Board
2 West Main Street
P.O. Box 520
Brookside, NJ 07926

Re: Wetlands/Transition Area Investigation
Mendham Golf & Tennis Club
Kenneday Road, Golf & Corey Lanes
Block 144, Lot 24
Mendham Township, Morris County, N.J.

Dear Ms. Foley,

Per the request of Yanncacone, Villa, & Aldrich, LLC, Environmental Technology Inc. has visited the above-referenced property and conducted a wetlands investigation to determine the presence or absence of freshwater wetlands and their associated transition areas that may affect the construction of multiple pickleball courts within a specific area of disturbance. The plans reviewed were prepared by Yannacone, Villa, & Aldrich, LLC and are entitled "MENDHAM GOLF & TENNIS CLUB PRELIMINARY & FINAL MAJOR SITE PLANS PICKELBALL COURTS PROJECT" and consisting of eight sheets, dated August 29, 2022. This review was pursuant to the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules (N.J.A.C 7:7A.)

STUDY METHODOLOGY

The investigation of the site was performed by the staff of Environmental Technology, Inc. on February 9, 2023.

In accordance with the New Jersey Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act, and outlined by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the extent of the wetlands were determined by implementing the methodology that is currently accepted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), namely Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands dated January 10, 1989 and supplements. This methodology states that for an area to be considered wetland all three of the following parameters must be present:

1. Hydric Soils

2. A Predominance of Hydrophytic Vegetation

3. Hydrology

The determination of hydric soils in the field is made by the use of a manually operated soil sampler. Then a determination of hydric soils is made by using Munsell Soil Color Charts. Transects are made from the wetlands to the uplands to determine the point at which soils no longer were determined to be hydric. Hydric soils are those soils that have a chroma of less than or equal to 1 (when no mottling is present) or a matrix chroma of less than or equal to 2 when mottling is present.

When soils classified as a sand soil are encountered Munsell Soil Color Charts are not used exclusively. In these instances hydric determinations are also made by the presence of one or more of the following conditions: high organic matter content in the surface horizon, the streaking of subsurface horizons by organic matter, or the presence of organic pans.

In situations in which soils exhibit significant coloration due to the nature of the parent material (e.g. red shales) the soils often do not exhibit the characteristic chromas associated with hydric soils. In the above situations the Munsell Soil Color Charts cannot always be used to evaluate the hydric nature of the soil. In these cases their hydric nature according to the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and the other criteria carry more weight.

Vegetation is classified according to the Eastern Mountains and Piedmont 2014 Regional Wetland Plant List prepared by the USACOE. The classifications, according to this list are as follows:

Obligate (OBL) Always found in wetlands under natural (not planted) conditions (frequency greater than 99%), but may persist in nonwetlands if planted there by man or in wetlands that have been drained, filled, or otherwise transformed into nonwetlands.

Facultative Wetland (FACW) Usually found in wetlands (67%-99% frequency), but occasionally found in nonwetlands.

Facultative (FAC) Sometimes found in wetlands (34%-66% frequency), but also occurs in nonwetlands.

Facultative Upland (FACU) Seldom found in wetlands (1%-33% frequency) and usually occurs in nonwetlands.

Nonwetland (UPL) Occurs in wetlands in another region, but not found (<1% frequency) in wetlands in the region specified. If a species does not occur in wetlands in any region, it is not on the list.

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According to the Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands dated January 10, 1989, an area has hydrophytic vegetation, when under normal circumstances more than 50 percent of the composition of the dominant species from all strata are obligate wetland (OBL), facultative wetland (FACW), and/or facultative (FAC) species.

In the non-growing season hydrophytic vegetation is assumed to be present, since during this time of the year many herbaceous species are either unidentifiable or non-existent.

Hydrology is determined by the evidence of water, either visible or indicators that water was present. This is noted by visible factors such as drift lines, high water marks on trees, sediment deposits including encrusted detritus, displacement of leaf litter as the result of water flowage, and drainage patterns. During the growing season, saturated soil samples and/or the water table is noted as evidence of hydrology when they are encountered within 12 inches of the soil surface.

Seasonal highwater table information is used, when available, from the Soil Conservation Service. Recent rainfall and/or other precipitation is also considered when evaluating hydrology.

In situations where the native conditions have been altered such as; cleared lands (e.g. agricultural lands), areas where the original soil has been altered (such as formerly plowed or filled lands), certain criteria are given more weight than others due to the lack of reliability of the affected parameter as an indicator.

FINDINGS

The investigation found the proposed area of disturbance to consist of a putting green and maintained lawn areas.

The investigation performed by the staff of ETI found that there are no wetlands identified on or within 150 feet of the proposed disturbance area, which is the maximum wetlands transition area size that could be required by the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules (N.J.A.C 7:7A-3.3).

Soil samples confirmed the presence of non-hydric soils within and adjacent to the limit of disturbance (Munsell Soil Color Chart Readings of 10YR 3/4 from 0 to 10 inches and 10YR 5/8 from 10 inches to 18 inches).

Vegetation observed in and adjacent to the proposed disturbance area consisted of Norway spruce (*Picea abies*, NL), and maintained lawn areas.

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CONCLUSIONS

Based on the methodology currently accepted by the NJDEP pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:7A, there are no areas within the proposed disturbance area that are classified as freshwater wetlands or transition area.

Since no portion of the proposed disturbance area is within the jurisdiction of NJDEP's Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules no contact with the NJDEP regarding freshwater wetlands or transition areas is required by NJDEP.

The information provided is based on the most current information available and our best professional judgment. This letter does not consider pending or future legislation or regulations that may change the opinions provided.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you should have any questions regarding our findings.

Very truly,

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY INC.

David C. Krueger, President
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