

TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
BRYAN MEMORIAL TOWN HALL  
PO BOX 383  
WASHINGTON DEPOT, CT 06754

**INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION SITE INSPECTION REPORT**

- I. APPLICATION #IW-23-67    INSPECTION DATE: 11/15/23
- II. NAME: Stuart Somers Co    TIME: 15:00
- III. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 32 Lower Church Hill Road
- IV. REASON FOR APPLICATION: for the Correction of a Violation/Remove Cut Trees and wood stockpiles from within the stream and upland review area.
- I. COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Papsin, Larry Gendron, Christopher Koppel
- II. STAFF PRESENT:
- III. OTHERS PRESENT: Dennis White, John Mack, Jeremy Spath
- IV. OBSERVATIONS:

We met in the parking area along Lower Church Hill Road. Bob Papsin notified others present that the upland review area would be increased to 250'. We proceeded up the hill through the woods along Lower Church Hill. The road was rutted from tractor and skidder traffic. We came to an clearing. Every tree and shrub was cut. It was not made clear exactly how much area was cleared. The stream was flagged, with many trees felled in and across the cold water stream. No upland review or other staking/marking was present. Overall loss of natural habitat observed.

A complete and full restoration plan will be required. No stump removal will be allowed. Any tree/brush removal be done during winter months, when soil is set, hardened. Requires a long term, 5 year planting and maintenance plan. Commission recommended a state licensed forester be contacted and view the site to provide recommendations for remediation.

A large pile of trees was already staked, but the vast majority of trees, shrubs, branches remain on the ground, on both sides of the stream. Cold water stream was exposed to sunlight due to canopy loss which would increase water temperature leading to loss in biodiversity. The soil disturbance and vegetation loss could lead to sedimentation leakage and soil erosion into cold water stream.

A variety of native trees and shrubs were cut. Including but not limited to the following...

- *Acer saccharum* (Sugar Maple)
- *Acer rubrum* (Swamp Maple)
- *Betula alleghaniensis* (Yellow Birch)
- *Betula lenta* (Black Birch)

- *Carpinus caroliniana* (Musclewood)
- *Carya ovata* (Shagbark Hickory)
- *Fagus grandifolia* (American Beech)
- *Hamamelis virginiana* (American Witch-Hazel)
- *Ostrya virginiana* (American Hop-Hornbeam)
- *Populus deltoides* (Eastern Cottonwood)
- *Quercus alba* (White Oak)
- *Quercus rubra* (Red Oak)
- *Viburnum acerifolium* (Mapleleaf Viburnum)

Invasive plant present is beginning to set in. Native sedge species such as *Carex appalachica*, *pennsylvanica*, *laxiculmis*, *plantaginea*, are being take over by *Cyperus esculentus* ( Yellow Nutsedge) and other herbaceous weeds, as well as woody invasives like *Euonymus alatus* (Burning Bush) and *Berberis thunbergii* (Japanese Barberry).

We proceeded back down the hill along the stream/waterfall. We observed the demolished former house site, with onling foundation, and various mechanical equipment remaining. A shipping container laid on top of the well.

SITE INSPECTION COMPLETION TIME: 16:15

Respectfully Submitted:

*Christopher Koppel & Larry Gendron*

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