



ARROWWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL

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South Burlington Natural Resource Investigation and Boundary Line Readjustment Jeff Parsons and Michael Lew-Smith, Arrowwood Environmental

Introduction

Roughly paralleling Dorset Street in the vicinity of the Bolduc, Goldberg, and Jewett properties in South Burlington is the Natural Resource Protection (NRP) zoning boundary line.

In August of 2007, Arrowwood Environmental investigated the natural communities, wetlands, and wildlife habitats of this area in the field in order to determine if adjustments to this line could be made.

Findings (Please refer to Attached Map)

The NRP line on the Bolduc, Goldberg, and Jewett properties crosses in a northeast to southwest direction to the west of the existing houses and the ornamental trees planted by the current or past homeowners. The NRP line currently passes west of the area where houses and trees of an ornamental and scattered nature are located. From a natural resource perspective the NRP line could be moved further to the east (in the vicinity of these houses) and include only areas with trees that are continuously forested. By moving the line to the east at this location, the area that would be excluded from the NRP zone is of only limited value in terms of wildlife and natural communities.

On the Jewett property north of their house a several acre wetland is located between the new Cider Mill development and the trees and house on the Jewett property. This is shown as the "Jewett North Wetland" on the attached map. In this case we recommend that the wetland be included within the NRP. This would mean a western readjustment of the line to include the wetland. The wetland boundaries shown on the attached map are very rough and for illustration purposes only. It appears that the actual wetland boundary has been flagged already. If this boundary is already mapped it would be our recommendation that the boundary and a 50-100 foot buffer area be used to redraw the NRP boundaries in this area.

Also on the Jewett property we investigated "Old Field B" shown on the attached map. This old field is growing in with goldenrod, and scattered buckthorn and gray dogwood shrubs. This old field area has very limited value in terms of natural communities and is not worthy of being included in the NRP area as a natural community of importance. Most of the old field area is of limited value in terms of wildlife habitat. White-tailed

deer day beds were located near the dogwood shrubs, and cottontail rabbit, red fox, coyotes and birds of prey likely use this area.

The Scott Pond Wetlands, the Cattail Marsh, and the “Cheese Factory Marsh” are all wetlands that surround Old Field B. These wetlands continue to be important wildlife habitats. These landscape features are used by white-tailed deer, mink coyote, red fox, raccoons, and even bobcat and should remain within the NRP zone.

Overall, “Old Field B” has some wildlife value, although it is limited. If South Burlington wants to protect this type of wildlife habitat then it should continue to keep the field in the NRP area. If not, South Burlington should at least continue to protect the Scott Pond Wetlands, the Cattail Marsh and the Cheese Factory Marsh. The wetlands should also be provided protective no-build buffer areas of at least 50-100 feet.

South Burlington

