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March 21, 2021

Paul Rasmussen, Chair
Durham Planning Board
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824

RE: Michael and Marti Mulhern 91 Bagdad Road proposal for subdivision and conditional use permit.

Dear Chair Rasmussen and Board Members;

This letter is being provided to clarify the review process for this project and all similar wetland impact projects, in the state of New Hampshire. The NHDES Wetlands Bureau has the final approval authority of projects that impact jurisdictional wetlands. The requirements for issuance of all wetland permits are minimization and avoidance. Each project is required to be designed with the least impacting alternative to wetlands and their functional values.

An alternatives analysis is required for all minor and major projects. The alternatives analysis is prepared for review by completing the Wetlands Best Management Practice Techniques for Avoidance and Minimization. This part of the application submittal requires a full alternatives analysis for designs and layouts to prove avoidance and minimization. In addition, a functional assessment is required, an analysis to prove impacts are limited to wetlands with the least valuable functions, and that there is no practical alternative which would reduce adverse impacts on the areas or the environments under the Bureau's jurisdiction.

In summary, I am providing this information to assure the planning board and conservation commission, that there are other agencies involved in this permitting process. The Wetlands Bureau will be providing a full and intensive review of the entire project to make sure the design complies with all of the permit criteria. This Bureau has the expertise to review all of the professionally developed designs, reports and permit criteria, and will insure that the process is properly completed prior to issuing any permits.

If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely;

Michael J. Sievert
VP Structural Engineering