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Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 3:29 PM

To: Curtis Rand <crand@salisburyct.us>

Cc: Ray McGuire <mcguire@kmm.com>; Vivian Garfein <vgarfein@gmail.com>; Abby Conroy <aconroy@salisburyct.us>

Subject: Wood Turtle Guidance Document

Hello Curtis:

I understand that you were in discussion with Marjorie Shansky this morning about a collaborative hiring of Dennis Quinn.

I know Marjorie is aware of the attached document, but are you? It's on the IWWC website under documents.

I prepared this document in consultation with the CT-DEEP NDDDB which represents the state of our knowledge of wood turtles in Salisbury and appropriate mitigation strategies. This document was also peer reviewed. DEEP granted me access to the NDDDB files for Salisbury for this species. Those data were augmented with additional information from the American Museum of Natural History, plus Klemens, 1993 and Klemens et al., 2021.

There are three projects. either conceptual, under review, or under enforcement that have direct bearing on the wood turtle.

Pope: Recreation and affordable housing proposed in Zone 3 which is explained in the attached paper. Zone 3 impacts can be managed by maximizing wood turtle habitat left undeveloped, appropriate management of wood turtle habitat, excluding wood turtles from areas of development or use, and paying close attention to and remedying causes of incidental take, specifically mowing.

SWSA: The proposal to excavate a portion of the floodplain of Spruce Swamp Creek for a holding pond is a significant and avoidable impact in Zone 2. Zone 2 impacts are to be avoided and if unavoidable minimized as per the attached document. In my professional opinion there are feasible and prudent alternatives to this proposal by SWSA.

Seth Churchill IWWC violation: Seth created an unpermitted driveway in Zone 2, very close to the wood turtle stream habitat (Salmon Kill). He also dug out and diverted the stream channel to create a pond which is directly fed from the stream and readily visible on Google Earth. This is a Zone 1 impact which is impermissible as per the attached document.

It is my opinion that this document which represents significant effort on my part obviates the need to hire an outside consultant to opine on wood turtles and the proposed impacts posed by the three projects. My personal respect for Dennis Quinn aside (he is a junior author on my 2021 book) is that I believe that jointly retaining an individual that has been hired by the neighborhood group will become very awkward for the Town if there is an intervention on the Pope recreation or affordable developments brought by the neighbors. One of my goals in compiling the attached document was to avoid this eventuality for the Town.

Finally, given the politics around each of these projects I caution that these each should be reviewed solely on facts alone and that there is consistent treatment of what we are permitting or denying in Zone 1, Zone 2, and Zone 3.

I do want to meet up with you and sort out the wood turtle record(s) from your section of Moore Brook. There are some issues with the GPS points that were submitted by you most recently to NDDB. Also, can you gather the various photographs and shells and other documentation you may have --I know you send me various photos over the years, but I lost 1000's of email from my server earlier this year. I would like to create a submission to NDDB that reflects your work over the year on your property.

Feel free to contact me with questions/clarifications.

Michael