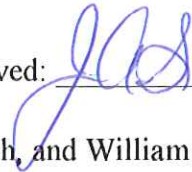


SUTTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
February 18, 2015
MINUTES

Approved: _____



Present: Daniel Moroney, Chairman, Joyce Smith, Co-Chair, Lauren Rothermich, and William Wence
Unavailable: Robert Tefft,
Staff: Wanda M. Bien, Secretary
Brandon Faneuf, Consultant

Public Hearing (Cont.)

7:00pm

192 (Aka 208) Manchaug Road

No DEP# SCC02-00-2015

The Public Hearing was opened at 7:05pm. D. Moroney waived the reading of the hearing notice as it appeared in the Millbury Sutton Chronicle.

The project consists of construction of a single-family house and driveway, with associated grading, septic system components, well and utilities.

Present: Lance Anderson, Heritage Design, Porter & Stacy Stephens, owner, Attorney Edwin Typlie

L. Anderson explained the newly submitted Notice of Intent and why the path to the lake didn't utilize the view corridor. He thinks a location in the view corridor would be more of a disturbance to the corridor itself. He also asked if the Commission would consider an off-site mitigation area. See attachment #1 from Eco Tec for the wildlife evaluation.

B. Faneuf reviewed the information from the last meeting for Mr. Moroney.

Motion: To continue, with the applicant's permission, to March 18, 2015 at 7:30pm by J. Smith
2nd: W. Wence
Vote: 3-1-0

Public Hearing (New)

7:15pm 198 (AKA 208 Lot#2) Manchaug Road

DEP#

The Public Hearing was opened at 8:00pm. D. Moroney read the hearing notice as it appeared in the Millbury Sutton Chronicle.

The project consists of construction of a single-family house, driveway, well, utilities, and septic system with associated grading.

Present: Lance Anderson, Heritage Design Group, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Steele, owner

L. Anderson explained the project and that the house and lawn is outside the jurisdiction, although the trees are marked within the area of the house that would come down.

B. Faneuf summarized his site visit report.
See Attachment #1 Ecosystems Solutions

Motion: To continue, with the applicant's permission, to March 4, 2015 at 7:00pm, by J. Smith
2nd: L. Rothermich
Vote: 4-0-0

Project Update

8:20pm 83 Griggs Road/Maggie Meagher
DEP#303-0614

Present: Maggie, Michael Meagher
Mike Meagher reviewed the revised plans with the culvert information. The Commission accepted and signed the new plans.

BOARD BUSINESS

The Board approved the minutes February 4, 2015

Motion: To approve the minutes February 4, 2015, by J. Smith
2nd: W. Wence
Vote: 4-0-0

Discussions:

The Board reviewed the Annual Report that was sent to the Town Clerks office. These two items were tabled to the next meeting when all Commissioners are available.

- Bylaw Review** – due for the Warrant for an April deadline
- Create a Wetlands Pamphlet** – to give out to people.

No Site visits until the snow melts

The Tracking Sheets and the Correspondence were reviewed.

Anyone interested in purchasing the DVD for any public hearing at this meeting, please contact Pam Nichols in the Cable office or you can view the minutes and video at www.suttonma.org.

Motion: To adjourn, by W. Wence
2nd: L. Rothermich
Vote: 4-0-0

Adjourned at 8:45pm.

EcoTec, Inc.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES

102 Grove Street

Worcester, MA 01605-2629

508-752-9666 - Fax: 508-752-9494

Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

**Proposed Single Family Home
Lot 1, 208 Manchaug Road
Sutton, Massachusetts**

Prepared for:

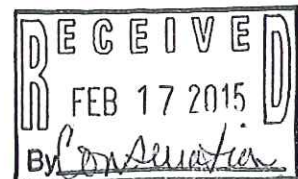
**Heritage Design Group
One Main Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588**

Prepared by:

**Scott Jordan
Senior Environmental Scientist**

January 15, 2015

11/wha/Sutton208ManchaugRdLot1HabitatEval



WB

Introduction

On January 15, 2015, EcoTec, Inc. conducted a wildlife habitat evaluation at the above-referenced site. The purpose of the evaluation was to collect field data relative to existing wildlife habitat features and characteristics which may be altered as part of the proposed single family home with associated grading and landscaping located within approximately 12,000 square feet of the outer Riverfront District Area associated with Manchaug Pond. This assessment has been designed to satisfy the Wildlife Habitat requirements at Sections 7.2.3 and 7.2.4 of the Town of Sutton Wetlands and Riverfront District Administration Bylaw and its implementing Rules and Regulations. The assessment was conducted by Scott Jordan, a qualified professional as identified at 310 CMR 10.60(1)(b) for the conduct of wildlife habitat evaluations under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Representative site photographs and a brief description of the author's experience and qualifications are attached.

Rare Species Review

The Regulations require that no project may be permitted that will have any adverse effect on specified habitat sites of rare vertebrate or invertebrate species, as identified by procedures set forth at 310 CMR 10.59. Based upon a review of the *Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas*, 13th edition, Priority Habitats and Estimated Habitats, Oxford Quadrangle, valid from October 1, 2008, there are no Estimated Habitats [for use with the Act and Regulations (310 CMR 10.00 *et seq.*)], Priority Habitats [for use with Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131A; "MESA") and MESA Regulations (321 CMR 10.00 *et seq.*)], or Certified Vernal Pools on or in the immediate vicinity of the site. A copy of this map is attached.

Additionally, a review of the Spring 2001 *Massachusetts Aerial Photo Survey of Potential Vernal Pools*, shows that there are no mapped Potential Vernal Pools on or within the immediate vicinity of the site.

Site Description

The proposed Lot 1 is comprised of 2.37 acres of land located along the westerly side of Manchaug Road in Sutton, Massachusetts. The lot is bordered by existing single family homes to the north; Manchaug Road to the east; Manchaug Pond to the west; and forested upland and an existing Boy Scout camp facility to the south. The area of investigation (a.k.a., "the site") consists of the approximately 12,000 square foot proposed work area located within the outer (i.e., 100-200 foot) Riverfront District associated with Manchaug Pond. The site topography gently slopes to the west-northwest with elevations ranging from approximately 93 feet in the southeastern portion to 86 feet in the western portion. Soils on the site consist of Montauk fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony. The upper soil profile, within the rooting zone, consists of 1 to 2- inches of duff/organic layer, over 8-inches of very stony fine sandy loam (10YR 2/2), over very stony fine sandy loam (10YR 5/4) to 12+ inches. Cobbles and boulders are present throughout the site at or just below the soil surface.

The site consists of a closed canopy, upland forest dominated by red maple (*Acer rubrum*), black birch (*Betula lenta*), white oak (*Quercus alba*) and black oak (*Quercus velutina*) trees and saplings; with a moderately dense shrub understory dominated by mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) in the western portion of the site. The forest floor consists of sparse herbaceous ground cover, dominated by mountain laurel suckers in the western portion, with a ½ to 1-inch leaf litter layer and large and small stick and woody debris throughout. Plant species observed, with approximately cover percentages, is included in the table below.

Strata	Plant Species	Approximate % Cover
Tree	Red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	55
	Black birch (<i>Betula lenta</i>)	10
	White oak (<i>Quercus alba</i>)	10
	Black oak (<i>Quercus velutina</i>)	15
	Red oak (<i>Quercus rubra</i>)	<5
	White pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>)	10
	Sassafras (<i>Sassafras albidum</i>)	<1
Sapling	Black birch (<i>Betula lenta</i>)	30
	Red maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	5
	White pine (<i>Pinus strobus</i>)	<5
Shrub	Mountain laurel (<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>)	40
	Witch hazel (<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>)	5
	Highbush blueberry (<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>)	<5
	Sugar maple (<i>Acer saccharum</i>)	<1
	Beaked hazelnut (<i>Corylus cornuta</i>)	<1
Ground cover	Mountain laurel (<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>)	20
	Tree clubmoss (<i>Lycopodium obscurum</i>)	<5
	Bracken fern (<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>)	<1
	Lowbush blueberry (<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>)	<5
	Teaberry wintergreen (<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>)	<1
	Partridgeberry (<i>Mitchell repens</i>)	<1
	Rattlesnake plantain (<i>Goodyera pubescens</i>)	<1

Identified Wildlife Features and Functions

Upon evaluation, the following food, shelter/cover, migratory, overwintering, breeding and habitat connectivity features were identified within the proposed approximately 12,000 square foot outer Riverfront District impact area.

Wildlife Food

Hard Mast

Approximately 25% of the site is vegetated with red oak, white oak and black oak trees, species known to provide acorn forage opportunities for avian and mammal wildlife.

Soft Mast

The site contains less than 5% coverage with identified soft mast producing species, including highbush blueberry shrubs; and partridgeberry, lowbush blueberry and teaberry wintergreen ground cover.

Insectivores

One, approximately 8-inch diameter dead standing cavity tree which contains 5+ cavities was observed on or near the northwest portion of the site. The tree may provide forage opportunities for insectivorous avian wildlife.

Wildlife Shelter and Cover

The western portion of the site is moderately vegetated with mountain laurel shrubs, a species known to provide cover for avian and mammal species. The site contains a closed canopy of mature trees and saplings which may provide cover opportunities for avian and mammal wildlife. The site contains a limited number of observed crevices associated with surface boundaries. Several fallen logs are located on the site which may also provide cover opportunities for wildlife. Approximately 20 linear feet of an existing two-foot high stone wall which may provide shelter and cover opportunities for wildlife is proposed to be removed in the southern portion of the site. A single hollowed-out log, which may provide wildlife shelter and cover opportunities, was observed near the westerly terminus of the existing stone wall in the southern portion of the lot.

Migratory

Migratory functions across the lot are limited to the north by existing single family homes; to the west by Manchaug Pond; and to the east by Manchaug Road. Migratory functions to the south are limited by the existing Boy Scout camp facility. Under the proposed development, the inner portion (i.e., first 100 feet) of the Riverfront District and the northern portion of lot shall be preserved, thus maintaining north-to-south and east-to-west riparian migratory functions across the lot.

Overwintering

The site contains a limited number of observed crevices associated with surface boundaries. Several fallen logs are located on the site which may also provide overwintering opportunities for wildlife. Approximately 20 linear feet of an existing two foot high stone wall which may provide overwintering opportunities for wildlife is proposed to be removed in the southern portion of the site.

Breeding

The western portion of the site is vegetated with mountain laurel shrubs, a species which may provide nesting opportunities for avian species. The site contains a closed canopy of mature trees and saplings which may provide wildlife breeding and nesting opportunities. Several fallen logs are located on the site which may also provide breeding opportunities for wildlife. Approximately 20 linear feet of an existing two-foot high stone wall which may provide breeding opportunities for wildlife is proposed to be removed in the southern portion of the site. One, approximately 8-inch diameter dead standing tree which contains 5+ cavities was observed on or near the northwestern portion of the site. No beaver,

mink, muskrat or otter dens, or small animal burrows were observed on or within the immediate vicinity of the site. No existing nesting trees, including osprey or great blue heron nesting areas were observed on or within the vicinity of the site. No turtle nesting areas, or suitable sandy substrates were observed on the site. No vertical sandy banks suitable for avian nesting opportunities were observed on the site. No sphagnum hummocks or pools suitable to serve as nesting habitat for salamanders or turtles were observed on the site.

Habitat Connectivity

As mentioned above, contiguous connectivity with other areas of undeveloped habitat is limited at the site. An area of existing single family homes is located immediately to the north of the lot. The lot is bordered to the east by Manchaug Road and to the west by Manchaug Pond. Connectivity to undeveloped habitat to the south of the site is ultimately limited by the existing boy scout camp, which consists of cabins, roadways, pathways, beach, concrete pier, and a baseball field. Under the proposed Lot 1 development, the inner portion (i.e., first 100 feet) of the Riverfront District and the northern portion of the lot shall be preserved, thus preserving existing habitat connectivity functions on the lot.

Mitigation Recommendations and Adverse Effect Analysis

In accordance with Section 7.2.4 of the Town of Sutton Wetlands and Riverfront District Administration Bylaw and its implementing Rules and Regulations, EcoTec provides the following mitigation recommendations and adverse effect analysis for lost habitat features and functions associated with the proposed outer Riverfront District Area alteration:

Wildlife Food

A portion of the site contains acorn producing white oak, red oak and black oak trees. These species are present and/or abundant in the adjacent inner Riverfront District Area on the lot, as well as the northern portion of the lot, which shall remain undeveloped under the proposed Lot 1 project. Soft mast producing shrubs and ground cover are limited on the site. Consequently, it is EcoTec's opinion that the proposed project shall not substantially reduce the capacity of Lot 1 to provide hard and soft mast forage opportunities.

One, approximately 8-inch diameter dead standing cavity tree which contains 5+ cavities was observed on or near the northwest portion of the site. The tree may provide forage opportunities for insectivorous avian wildlife. If the tree cannot be preserved during construction, mitigation shall consist of careful removal of the tree, and installing the tree within a 4-foot deep, hand dug hole located within the northern, undeveloped northern portion of the outer Riverfront District Area on the lot. Alternatively, two 8-inch diameter by 20 foot long logs felled during construction may be installed within 4-foot deep, hand-dug holes located within the northern, undeveloped portion of the Riverfront District Area on the lot to replace lost insectivorous forage opportunities on Lot 1.

Wildlife Shelter and Cover

The closed tree canopy and mountain laurel thicket in the western portion of the site may provide wildlife shelter and cover opportunities. These above described tree and shrub species and densities are present and/or abundant in the adjacent inner Riverfront District Area on the lot, as well as the northern portion of the lot, which shall remain undeveloped. Surface boulders and fallen logs on the

site may provide shelter and cover opportunities. The surface boulders and fallen logs are present and abundant in the inner Riverfront District Area on the lot, as well as the northern portion of the lot, which will remain undeveloped under the proposal. However, it is recommended that smaller logs located within the impact area which can be removed by hand should be relocated within the northern, undeveloped portion of the outer Riverfront District Area on the lot.

Approximately 20 linear feet of an existing two-foot high stone wall which may provide shelter and cover opportunities for wildlife is proposed to be removed in the southern portion of the site. Mitigation for the lost portion of the stone wall shall consist of the construction of at least three, six foot diameter by three foot high stone piles constructed by hand within the northern, undeveloped portion of the outer Riverfront District Area on the lot.

A single hollowed-out log, which may provide wildlife shelter and cover opportunities, is located near the westerly terminus of the existing stone wall in the southern portion of the site. It is recommended that the log is relocated, by hand, to the undeveloped northern portion of the outer Riverfront District Area on the lot.

It is EcoTec's opinion that if the above recommended mitigation measures are completed, the project shall not substantially reduce the lot's capacity to provide wildlife shelter and cover opportunities.

Migratory and Habitat Connectivity

Migratory and habitat connectivity functions across the lot are limited to the north by existing single family homes; to the west by Manchaug Pond; and to the east by Manchaug Road. Migratory functions to the south are limited to the existing Boy Scout camp facility. Under the proposed development, the inner portion (i.e., first 100 feet) of the Riverfront District and the northern portion of the lot shall be preserved, thus maintaining north-to-south and east-to-west migratory and habitat connectivity functions across the lot.

Overwintering Functions

The site contains a limited number of observed crevices associated with surface bounders. Several fallen logs are located on the site which may also provide overwintering opportunities for wildlife. The above described surface boulders and fallen logs are present and abundant within the inner Riverfront District Area on the site, as well as the northern portion of the lot, which shall remain undeveloped. However, it is recommended that smaller logs located within the impact area which can be removed by hand should be relocated within the northern, undeveloped portion of the outer Riverfront District Area on the lot.

Approximately 20 linear feet of an existing two foot high stone wall which may provide overwintering opportunities for wildlife is proposed to be removed in the southern portion of the site. Mitigation for the lost portion of the stone wall shall consist of the construction of at least three, six foot diameter by three foot high stone piles constructed by hand within the undeveloped portion of the outer Riverfront District Area on the lot. It is EcoTec's opinion that if the above recommended log relocation and rock pile construction is completed, the project shall not substantially reduce the lot's capacity to provide wildlife overwintering opportunities.

Breeding Functions

The closed tree canopy and mountain laurel thicket in the western portion of the site may provide nesting opportunities for avian species. These above described tree and shrub species and densities are present and/or abundant in the adjacent inner Riverfront District Area on the lot, as well as the northern portion of the lot, which shall remain undeveloped.

Fallen logs on the site may provide wildlife breeding opportunities. Fallen logs are present and abundant in the inner Riverfront District Area on the lot, as well as the northern portion of the lot, which will remain undeveloped under the proposal. However, it is recommended that smaller logs located within the impact area which can be removed by hand should be relocated within the northern, undeveloped portion of the outer Riverfront District Area on the lot.

Approximately 20 linear feet of an existing two foot high stone wall which may provide breeding opportunities for wildlife is proposed to be removed in the southern portion of the site. Mitigation for the lost portion of the stone wall shall consist of the construction of at least three, six-foot diameter by three-foot high stone piles constructed by hand within the northern, undeveloped portion of the outer Riverfront District Area on the lot.

One, approximately 8-inch diameter dead standing cavity tree which contains 5+ cavities was observed on or near the northwest portion of the site. If the tree cannot be preserved during construction, mitigation shall consist of careful removal of the tree, near ground level, and installing the tree within a 4-foot deep, hand dug hole located within the northern, undeveloped portion of the outer Riverfront District Area on the lot.

It is EcoTec's opinion that if the above recommended mitigation measures are completed, the project shall not substantially reduce the lot's capacity to provide wildlife breeding opportunities.

Conclusion

It is anticipated that the above described impacts to wildlife habitat features and functions within approximately 12,000 square feet of the outer Riverfront District Area on Lot 1 as a result of the proposed development. Many of the features and functions which may be lost within the site are also present, and or abundant within other portions of the lot, including the inner Riverfront District Area on the lot and the northern portion of the outer Riverfront District on the lot, both of which shall be preserved under the development proposal. EcoTec has provided above several mitigation recommendations that shall provide replacement, or preservation, of many lost features and functions on Lot 1.

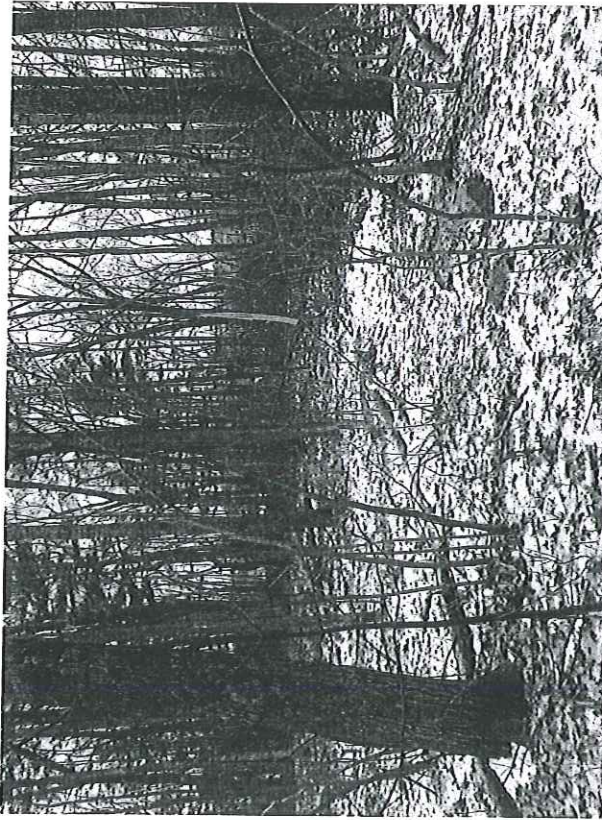
It is EcoTec's opinion that, if the recommended mitigation measures are completed, the proposed work within the outer Riverfront District Area on Lot 1 will not substantially reduce the capacity of the lot to provide important wildlife habitat functions. This opinion is based upon: (1) adequate completion of the above mitigation recommendations; (2) the preservation of the existing habitat features and

functions in the northern portion of the lot and the inner portion of the Riverfront District Area on the lot, which shall remain undeveloped under the proposed project; and (3) compliance with the requirements at Section 7.2.4 of the Town of Sutton Wetlands and Riverfront District Administration Bylaw and its implementing Rules and Regulations.

It is strongly recommended that the construction of the recommended mitigation measures is overseen by a qualified environmental scientist in order to ensure that the mitigation measures are successfully completed.

Attachments (2, 4 pages)

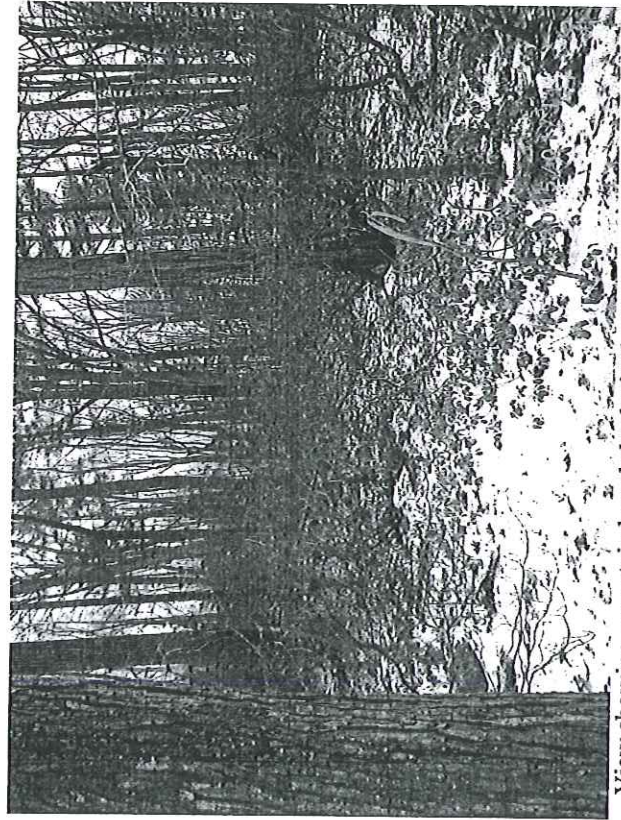
LOT 1 - 208 MANCHAUG ROAD - PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DURING INSPECTION ON JANUARY 15, 2015



Westerly view showing proposed work area within the Riverfront District (a.k.a. "the site")



View showing sparse tree clubmoss ground cover in western portion of site.



View showing mountain laurel shrubs in the western portion of the site.

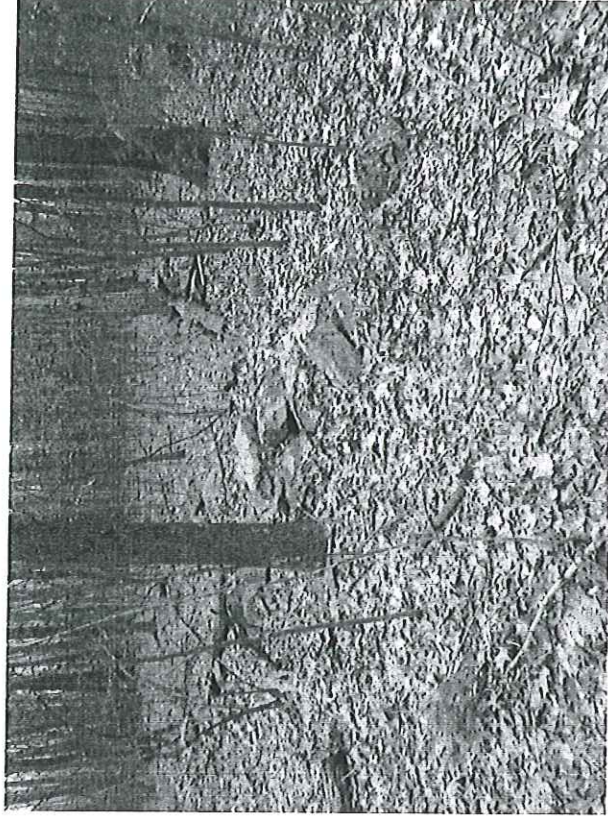


View showing typical cobble and boulder surface substrate.

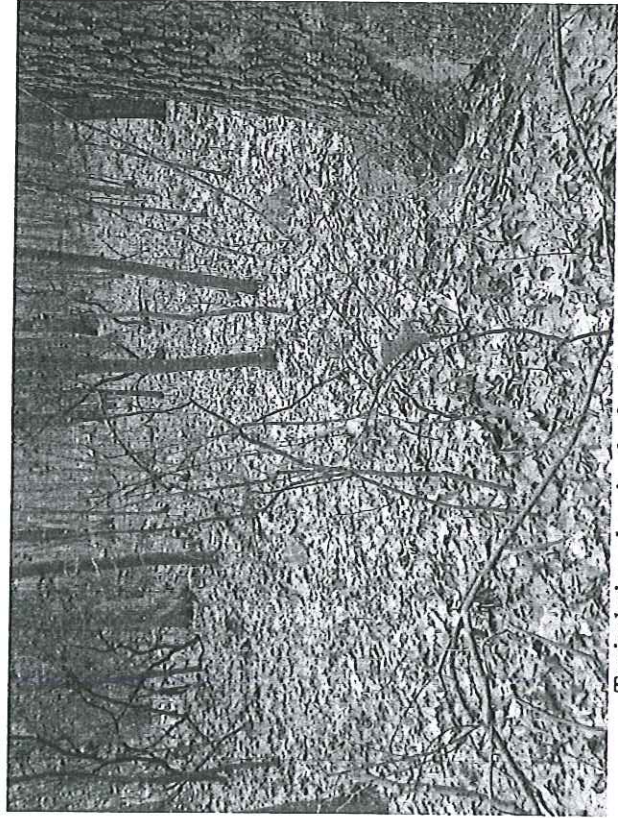
LOT 1 - 208 MANCHAUG ROAD - PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DURING INSPECTION ON JANUARY 15, 2015



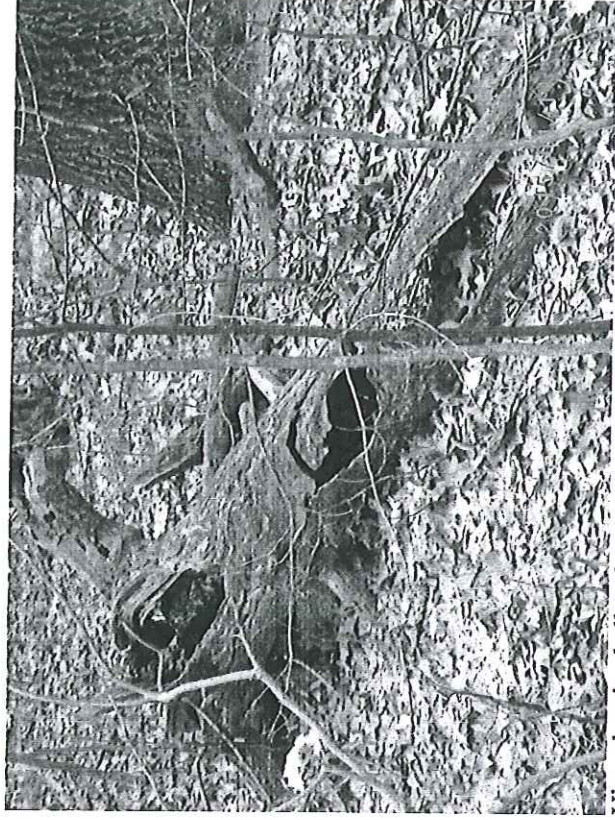
View showing typical fallen log features on the site.



View showing end portion of stone wall proposed for removal.



Typical view showing leaf and stick litter on the site.



View showing hollow log to be preserved, located near the terminus of the stone wall.

LOT 1 - 208 MANCHAUG ROAD - PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DURING INSPECTION ON JANUARY 15, 2015



View showing dead standing cavity tree located on or near the northwestern portion of the site.



View showing mountain laurel sucker ground cover in the western portion of the site.

