

# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Office of Planning and Community Development

## To: Simsbury Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands Agency

From: Brittany MacGilpin, Assistant Town Planner

**Date:** August 15, 2023

**<u>RE:</u>** Application CC #23-26 of 894 Hopmeadow Street, LLC, Owner, Charles Houlihan, Applicant, for a wetland permit to fill +/-3,229 sq. ft. and other site disturbance within the wetland soils and associated activity in the upland review area for the construction of a +/-53,773 sq. ft. mixed-use residential building at 894 Hopmeadow Street, (Assessor's Map H09, Block 227, Lot 004A) Simsbury, CT 06070, zone SC-1.

**Summary of Request:** 894 Hopmeadow Street, LLC, Property Owner, along with Charles Houlihan, Applicant, have submitted an Inland Wetlands Regulated Activity permit application for a proposed +/- 53,773 mixed-use development with structured parking at 894 Hopmeadow Street. The approximate location of the wetland soils is depicted in red below on the current aerial view of the property. A more precise location of the flagged soils can be found on page C1 of the submitted civil plan set. It should be noted that the Town's official wetlands map does not show wetland soils to be on the property but instead, these soils were identified through field delineation by the applicant's soil scientist.

The Regulated Activity application was deemed significant at the regularly scheduled June 20, 2023 Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands Agency meeting and originally scheduled for a public hearing on July 18, 2023. The applicant requested a postponement to the opening of the public hearing to the next regularly scheduled meeting on August 15, 2023.



Telephone (860) 658-3245 Facsimile (860) 658-3206 A n Equal Opportunity Employer www.simsbury-ct.gov 8:30 - 7:00 Monday 8:30 - 4:30 Tuesday through Thursday 8:30 - 1:00 Friday The applicant has submitted a site plan set and stormwater report prepared by Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc. along with an Inland Wetlands Report, prepared by Professional Soil Scientist, Michael S. Klein.

**Criteria For Decision, Section 10.2 in Wetland Regulations:** While making its decision, the Agency must provide findings for approval (or denial) of the application. A complete list of findings can be found in Section 10.2 of the Wetland Regulations. Relevant criteria for the commission to consider when making findings for this application may be the following:

- a. The environmental impact of the proposed regulated activity on wetlands or watercourses including the amount and nature of material to be removed or deposited and the projected effect on the water table, drainage patterns; flood control, water supply and quality, and aquatic or benthic organisms
- b. The applicant's purpose for the proposed activity, and any feasible and prudent alternatives which would cause less or no environmental impact to wetlands or watercourses;
- c. The relationship between the short- and long-term impacts of the proposed regulated activity on wetlands or watercourses and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity of such wetlands or watercourses, including the potential for preservation and/or management of local ecosystems
- d. Impacts of the proposed regulated activity on wetlands, watercourses, or habitat for wetlanddependent species outside the area for which the activity is proposed and future activities associated with or reasonably related to the proposed regulated activity and which may have an impact on wetlands or watercourses.

**Existing Wetlands Conditions:** According to the Inland Wetlands Report, there is an approximately 9,583.2 s.f. (.22 acres) pocket of wetland soils located on the east side of the property that was most likely originally contiguous with wetlands on the east side of Iron Horse Boulevard. The pocket of wetland largely consists of vegetated turf grasses and some wetland herbs such as sedges and rushes. There are various types of soils within the wetland portion of the site including Hinckley loam sand, an extremely well-drained soil with fast rates of water infiltration, and Tisbury silt loam, a more moderate to slow infiltration rate. The report states, "due to its small size, isolation from other wetlands, intensity of surrounding development, and the altered hydrology and vegetation, wetland functions and values provided are minimal."

**Regulated Activity:** The plan requires the filling of approximately 3,223 s.f. of the southern portion of the wetland soil area to provide an access drive to the site from Iron Horse Boulevard, which is shown approximately within the blue circle on the map below. Due to this activity, approximately 33% of the wetland soils will be permanently altered.



Trees are also proposed to be removed in the vicinity of the wetland soils, as shown on the submitted Site Preparation and Demolition plan, drawing C1 below. The legend states the circle black hatched areas are trees to be removed.



**Proposed Mitigation:** Soil and erosion control measures are proposed to protect the remaining wetland soils area. Furthermore, an associated planting plan was submitted with the application and proposes to restore disturbed wetlands with native wetland plantings and restore the remaining lawn area and remove invasive species. The proposed landscaping plan was provided in the civil plan set and is shown in the map below (a larger version of this plan can be seen on page L1 of the civil plan set).

It was requested by the commission at the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting that native plant species be used to the greatest extent possible. An alternative list of recommended native plantings was provided to the applicant and a response from them was provided along with the revised planting plan and is attached to this report as Attachment 'A'.

**Erosion and Sedimentation Controls:** An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan was submitted and found on page C5 and C8 of the submitted civil plans. A narrative stated that the control measures will be installed in accordance with the 2002 CT Guidleines for Soil Erosion and Sediminet Control as amended. The measures include a silt fence with double row of compost filter socks, construction entrances at both the Iron Horse Boulevard and Hopmeadow Street entrances, inlet protection and a temporary sediment stockpile with silt fence around it. See the submitted plan below.



**Engineering Staff Comments:** The application and submitted plans were forwarded to the Town's Engineering staff for review. Staff responded on July 6, 2023 with comments pertaining to storm water and wetlands as well as for the general site. It was suggested that the applicant respond to only the wetland/storm water comments at this time as they are more pertinent to the wetlands application. Other comments will be addressed with the future Site Plan application. Please see all Engineering comments as attachment "B" with the wetlands/storm water comments highlighted.

The applicant is working with Engineering staff to address storm water and drainage concerns primarily with regards to the characteristics of the wetland soils as a detention basin. While there are no major concerns by Engineering staff as it pertains to the wetlands portion of the application, all comments will be addressed prior to the issuance of a building permit for the site.

#### **Relevant Wetland Guidelines:**

**Per Section 2 – Definitions, Regulated Area:** Any wetland as defined in these regulations and as shown on the "Official Inland Wetlands Map for the Town of Simsbury, CT." It should be noted that some wetland boundaries may vary from the official map or may not have been depicted. In such cases, the actual character of the soils determines whether the area is subject to the regulations.

**Per Section 6 – Regulated Activities to be Licensed**: the proposed construction described in the application are **regulated activities**.

### **Draft Motion**

- Moved, the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Agency APPROVES <u>Application CC #23-26</u> of 894 Hopmeadow Street, LLC, Owner, Charles Houlihan, Applicant, for a wetland permit to fill +/-3,229 sq. ft. and other site disturbance within the wetland soils and associated activity in the upland review area for the construction of a +/-53,773 sq. ft. mixed-use residential building at 894 Hopmeadow Street, (Assessor's Map H09, Block 227, Lot 004A) Simsbury, CT 06070, zone SC-1 based upon the following findings:
  - a. Short-term impacts from the proposed development will be controlled by installation and maintenance of erosion and sediment controls and construction run-off controls.
  - b. The soil scientist report stated that the wetland functions and values are minimal and that the small loss of wetland soils will have no adverse environmental impact.
  - c. The applicant stated in the application that prudent and feasible alternatives were considered. Requirements by the DOT and Town would not permit a curb cut on the north side of the soils for safety reasons and therefore, the curb cut is proposed to be located on the south side instead.

And subject to the following conditions:

- 1. The project shall be developed in substantial conformance to the site plan titled, "894 Hopmeadow Redevelopment, Wetlands Submission," dated June 10, 2022, prepared by Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc.
- 2. The project shall be in substantial conformance with the planting plan as revised and submitted by the applicant on page LI of the civil plan set.

- 3. Soils shall be stabilized with the application of loam, seed, required plantings and appropriate erosion control measures.
- 4. At all times during site work and until soil areas are stabilized, the applicant shall install and maintain erosion and sediment control measures depicted in the plot plan (see condition #1) such as fabric filter fence or other measures deemed necessary by the Commission's agent to prevent erosion and sedimentation impacts to wetlands and watercourses.
- 5. All erosion control and soil stabilization measures shall comply with the approved plans and the guidelines as established in the Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, 2002, CTDEP Bulletin 34.
- 6. Upon direction of the Commission's agent, erosion and sediment control measures shall be removed by the applicant following stabilization of the site.
- 7. The Inland Wetlands Agent shall be notified at least 48 hours prior to commencement of activities.

Or Moved, (An alternative Motion)

894 HOPMEADOW STREET PLANT LIST MODIFICATIONS			
PREVIOUS LIST	REVISED LIST		
PAPERBARK MAPLE	DURA HEAT RIVER BIRCH (MULTI-STEM), BETULA NIGRA 'BNMTF'		
CORNUS X 'KN30-8' VENUS DOGWOOD	WHITE FRINGETREE, CHIONANTHUS VIRGINICU		
ACER GRISEUM	DURA HEAT RIVER BIRCH (MULTI-STEM), BETULA NIGRA 'BNMTF'		
JUIPERUS CHINENSIS 'PFITZERIANA COMPACTA' COMPACT PFITZER JUNIPER	LOW SCAPE MOUND, ARONIA MELANOCARPA		
JUNIPERUS SCOPULORUM 'MOONGLOW' MOONGLOW JUNIPER	REMAINED SEE NOTE *		
SPIREA JAPONICA 'SMNSJMFP' DOUBLE PLAY PINK SPIREA	LITTLE HENRY SWEETSPIRE, ITEA VERGINICA 'SPRICH'		
CORNUS ALBA 'ELEGANTISSIMA' VARIEGATED TATARIAN DOGWOOD	BAILEY'S RED TWIG DOGWOOD,CORNUS SERICEA 'BAILEYI'		
CORNUS ALBA 'REGNZAM' RED GNOME DOGWOOD	BAILEY'S RED TWIG DOGWOOD,CORNUS SERICEA 'BAILEYI'		
HYDRANGEA PANICULATA 'TREE FORM' TREE FORM HYDREANDEA	HYDRANGEA QUERCIFOLIA, FOTHERGILLA		
HYDRANGEA PETIOLARIS CLIMBING HYDRANGEA	WOODBINE, CLEMATIS PANICULATA		
ABIES CONCOLOR WHITE FIR	CANADIAN HEMLOCK, TSUGA CANADENSIS		
JUNIPERUS SCOPULORUM 'SKYROCKET' SKYROCKET JUNIPER	REMAINED SEE NOTE *		
ILEX MESERVEAE 'BLUE PRINCE / PRINCESS'	NORTHERN BAYBERRY, MYRICA PENNSYLVANICA		
HOSTA 'STAINED GLASS' STAINED GLASS HOSTA	CHRISTMAS FERN, POLYSTICHUM ACROSTICHOIDES		
HEMEROCALLIS 'MARY TODD'	CUTLEAF BLEEDING HEART, DICENTRA EXIMIA		
NEPTA FASSENII 'WALKERS LOW' WALKERS LOW CATMINT	DWARF BLACK EYED SUSAN, RUDBECKIA FULGIDA FULGIDA		
COMMON PERIWINKLE VINCA MINOR INVASIVE TENDANCIES	CHRISTMAS FERN, POLYSTICHUM ACROSTICHOIDES		
CLEMATIS PANICULATA SWEET AUTUMN CLEMATIS POTENTIALLY INVASIVE	WOODBINE, CLEMATIS PANICULATA		

\*PLANT NOT REPLACED. PLANT IS INDIGENOUS TO THE COUNTRY AND THE SELECTED PLANT IS MOST SUITABLE FOR THE AREA PROVIDED ALONG THE WALKWAY DUE TO SIZE.

	CL&P 138			
	CL&P 136	rraffic Şign	HELTCO 137	PCB
		502	EXIST. TREE	
	Tel. MH	OW STREET - US ROUTE	EXIST. TREE	
PLANT LIST	UP	HOPMEAD HOPMEAD		
SYM.QTY.TECHNICAL NAMEDECIDUOUSTREESACS6AMELANCHIER CANADENSISAAB4AMELANCHIER GRANDIFLORA 'AUTUMN BRILLANCE'AL4AMELANCHIER LAEVISBRB2BETULA NIGRA 'BNMTF'CWF1CHIONANTHUS VIRGINICUSMV3MAGNOLIA VIRGINIANAPA1PLATANUS ACERFOLIA 'BLOODGOOD'	COMMON NAME SHADBLOW SERVICEBERRY AUTUMN BRILLANCE SERVICEBERRY ALLEGHENY SERVICEBERRY DURA HEAT RIVER BIRCH (MULTI-STE WHITE FRINGETREE SWEETBAY MAGNOLIA BLOODGOOD LONDON PLANETREE	SIZE 7'-8' HT. 7'-8' HT. 7'-8' HT. M) 12'-14' HT. 5'-6' HT. 5'-6' HT. 3"-31/2" CAL.	COND. B&B B&B B&B B&B B&B B&B B&B B&	
DECIDUOUS SHRUBS ALM 8 ARONIA MELANOCARPA CAH 8 CLRTHRA ALNIFOLIA 'HUMMINGBIRD' CRD 12 CORNUS SERICEA 'BAILEYI' HOL 1 HYDRANGEA QUERCIFOLIA ILH 15 ITEA VERGINICA 'SPRICH' VLB 18 VACCINIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM VM 8 VIBURUM 'MOHAWK'	LOW SCAPE MOUND HUMMINGBIRD SUMMERSWEET BAILEY'S RED TWIG DOGWOOD OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA LITTLE HENRY SWEETSPIRE LOWBUSH BLUEBERRY MOHAWK VIBURNUM	3 GAL. 0 3 GAL. 0 3 GAL. 0 5 GAL. 0 3 GAL. 0 3 GAL. 0 5 GAL. 0	CONT. CONT. CONT. CONT. CONT. CONT. CONT.	
InterventionJMJ2JUIPERUS SCOPULORUM 'MOOMGLOW'TCH3TSUGA CANADENSISEVERGREENSHRUBSIGS14ILEX GLABRA 'SHAMROCK'JSS44JUIPERUS SCOPULORUM 'SKYROCKET'KLT7KALMIA LATIFOLIA 'TINKERBELL'MNB7MYRICA PENNSYLVANICATJG5THUJA OCCIDENTALIS 'JANED GOLD'	MOONGLOW JUNIPER CANADIAN HEMLOCK SHAMROCK INKBERRY SKYROCKET JUNIPER TINKERBELL MOUNTAIN LAUREL NORTHERN BAYBERRY JANED GOLD ARBORVITAE	6'-7' HT. 6'-7' HT. 3 GAL. C 4'-41/2' HT. 5 GAL. C 3'-4' HT. 6'-7' HT.	B&B B&B CONT. B&B CONT. B&B B&B B&B	
PERENNIALS DBH 21 DICENTRA EXIMIA RBS 12 RUDBECKIA FULGIDA FULGIDA FERNS PAC 120 POLYSTICHUM ACROSTICHOIDES	CUTLEAF BLEEDING HEART DWARF BLACK EYED SUSAN CHRISTMAS FERN	5 PNT. C 5 PNT. C 1 <b>GAL</b> . C	CONT.	6" TOPSO
GRASSES PCB 74 PANICUM VIRGATUM 'CAPE BREEZF'	CAPE BREEZE SWITCHGRASS	1 GAL.	CONT.	
VINES CV 29 CLEMATIS PANICULATA	WOODBINE	1 GAL. C	CONT.	PLANTING D Not to Scale





# Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET ~ SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Department of Public Works - Engineering Division

#### **DESIGN REVIEW MEMORANDUM**

July 6, 2023

To: George K. McGregor, AICP, Director of Community Planning and Development

From: Adam D. Kessler, P.E., Deputy Town Engineer

Subject: Engineering Comments – Proposed Redevelopment #894 Hopmeadow Street

The Engineering Department has reviewed the documents submitted as part of a Wetlands Application for redevelopment of 894 Hopmeadow Street received by this department on June 14, 2023:

- 1. Site Development Plans set titled "894 Hopmeadow Redevelopment", prepared by Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc. dated June 10, 2023.
- Stormwater Management Report prepared by Loureiro Engineering Associates, Inc., dated June 10, 2023.
- 3. Wetlands Report prepared by Max Welti, P.E., of Welti Geotechnical, P.C., dated November 13, 2017.

The applicant has submitted plans to redevelop 894 Hopmeadow Street to construct a mixed-use residential building with first floor commercial store front and subsurface parking. This redevelopment will include associated stormwater management, grading, landscaping, and appurtenances.

The following comments are based on a review of the submitted materials and respectfully request that the applicant responds to all comments in writing with revised documents. The applicant is advised that subsequent revisions may require additional review comments and additional review shall occur during the P&Z application process.

#### General

- 1. Revise the plan set for readability. For example, the building shade conflicts with notes and linework.
- 2. The applicant shall provide all future correspondence with the State of Connecticut Office of State Traffic Administration (OSTA).
- 3. The applicant shall provide all future correspondence with the State of Connecticut Department Transportation regarding encroachment permits to the Town of Simsbury Engineering Department.
- 4. Provide proposed contours at a 1-foot interval as it is unclear of the grading along the northern and western sidewalks and customer/patron/resident areas.

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- 5. The proposed lighting shall conform to Section 6.5 Site Lighting of the Simsbury Center Code regulations. All proposed lighting should be of similar colors and be color corrected type if high pressure sodium luminaire is specified. Provide photometric plans showing light levels and to confirm no spillage of light off-site. Include proposed building mounted lighting in photometric plan and indicate on the building mounted light detail and lamp post detail to comply with light color, as applicable. Identify location(s) of building mounted lights on the plans.
- 6. A spot grade identifying fill of over a foot is shown only a few feet from the northernmost (20") Honeylocust along the frontage of Hopmeadow Street; this significant grading falls well within the "Tree Protection Fence". The landscape architect shall review the grading and drainage plans and confirm all proposed work is not in conflict with the protection of existing trees and landscape.
- 7. The retaining wall is 10-feet tall at its tallest identified point. Please note that a retaining wall of this size requires design by a licensed professional engineer and a building permit.

#### Site Layout and Traffic

- 1. The (4) parking spaces on Hopmeadow Street will not have snow removed by CTDOT during winter storm events. It is likely that the property owner/operator will be required to manage all snow and ice removal/treatment at parking spaces along its frontage in addition to the sidewalks.
- 2. Provide traffic analysis supporting the proposed improvements to Iron Horse Blvd. In particular the analysis should provide evidence that reducing the left turn lane does not adversely impact existing and future traffic, and the proposed left turn lane is sufficiently sized for this development.
- 3. Provide intersection grading plan for the improvements to Iron Horse Blvd. Additional catch basins and gutter flow analysis may be required.
- 4. Provide signage and line markings plan for the proposed improvements to Iron Horse Blvd. For example, a Keep Right (R4-7) sign at the proposed northern median in Iron Horse Boulevard is required as part of the proposed improvements.
- 5. Note on the plans that all pavement markings shall be of the color white with the exception of the ADA symbol detail, which should remain as proposed.
- 6. Note on the plans that all line striping shall be epoxy resin or a slip-resistant material to avoid potential slip hazards at crosswalks and/or crossings.
- 7. Provide additional spot grades and/or contours within the parking areas for clarity. Spot grades should also be included at the accessible parking spaces for compliance.
- 8. Identify the accessible route from the parking garage to the building.
- 9. A Vehicle Turning Plan shall be provided for movements of the Simsbury Fire Truck around the site. The Vehicle Data for the Turning Template should incorporate the Simsbury Fire Truck with the following dimensions:

Overall Length:	48.170 feet
Overall Width:	8.330 feet
Overall Body Height:	10.489 feet
Min Body Ground Clearance:	0.920 feet
Track Width:	8.330 feet

Lock-to-lock time:	6.00 seconds
Max Wheel Angle:	45.00 degrees

- 10. Identify the location(s) of discharge for the underdrain of the proposed retaining wall.
- 11. Identify the location(s) of the dumpster enclosure(s) on-site.
- 12. Revise the Zoning Table to include Directly Connected Impervious Area (DCIA).
- 13. Several trees exist along the western shoulder of Iron Horse Boulevard which may result in impacts to sight lines. Confirm sight lines in all directions from each point of egress from the site.
- 14. Line striping for parallel parking spaces shall be compliant with MUTCD standards. Figure 3B-21 of MUTCD outlines three examples of markings for parallel parking spaces.
- 15. Truncated domes are not required for the sidewalk along Hopmeadow Street at driveway crossings.
- 16. The sidewalk connection to the south of the site should be 5-feet wide and match the existing sidewalk.
- 17. The applicant shall be advised that as of January 2023 the specified bricks for the brick paver sidewalk had a 20-month lead time.
- 18. The applicant shall construct the driveway apron along Iron Horse Boulevard in compliance with the Town of Simsbury Driveway Detail. The detail is attached to this memo to be included on the plan. An AutoCAD file of the detail is available, if needed.

Stormwater Design and Analysis

- 19. Wetlands have been delineated to the rear (east) of the proposed building, and should be analyzed as Hydrologic Soil Group D. Revise the stormwater report and design accordingly.
- 20. An infiltration rate of 5.0 in/hour was assumed for all stormwater detention facilities. The permeability tests at Boring B-1 and Boring B-4 identified permeability at 33-52.5 ft/day (16.5-26.25 in/hour), but are not located in relative proximity to the proposed detention facilities. Although NRCS identifies the site as Hydrologic Soil Group A, the infiltration rate used in a design should be a factor of safety of 2 from a field test at the location of each proposed stormwater infiltration facility. Revise the stormwater report and design accordingly.
- 21. The 8" HDPE connecting ADA CLCB-5 to the drywell has two labels for it: "30 LF 8" HDPE, S=0.08" and "36 LF 8" HDPE, S=0.094". These calculate to either an invert of 162.35' or 161.36' at the drywell, whereas the proposed final grade at the drywell is approximately 160'. Label the pipe correctly and provide more information for this drywell such as: 8" invert in, bottom elevation, top elevation, and a detail of this drywell.
- 22. Add a detention area table to the report with pertinent information for each storm event analyzed such as, top of pond, bottom of pond, maximum water elevation, etc.
- 23. Add a detailed cross-section of each detention facility. Include inlet elevations, outlet structure elevations, and all maximum water elevations for each storm analyzed.

- 24. Given that the wetland area operates as a detention area on the subject parcel, it should be included as a pond in the analysis to demonstrate freeboard is adequate during the 100-year storm event and no adverse impact to adjacent parcel as a result of the proposed improvements.
- 25. Sheet C3 identifies the Retain-Is Retention System as the 5' units, although the detail on Sheet C7 provides details for the 3' and 4' units. Revise the plan and detail accordingly.
- 26. The cover over the 5-chamber Retain-It system appears to be less than 1-foot at the eastern point. Confirm the minimum/maximum cover required for the retain-it system.
- 27. The driveway at Iron Horse Boulevard appears to be super-elevated to pitch runoff to the south. Confirm that drainage will be captured by the proposed Trench Drain and that the grate capacity is sufficient for the runoff through this 5% graded driveway.
- 28. Revise plan to locate the trench drain on the subject parcel and not within the Town ROW. Revise grading accordingly.

#### Site Utilities

29. Further review will be completed during the P&Z application process.

#### Simsbury Water Pollution Control

30. Please note that it is likely the existing sanitary sewer laterals are 4" and not 6" as noted on the plan. Further review by WPCA will be completed during the P&Z application process.