

From: Cathy Strasser [mailto:**REDACTED EMAIL ADDRESS**]

Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 8:24 PM

To: Tilton, Mary Ann

Subject: RE: Proposed wetlands rule change – Sugar Hill Conservation Commission comments.

April 5, 2018

Ms. Mary Ann Tilton, Administrator

NH Department of Environmental Services

Water Division, Wetlands Bureau

29 Hazen Dr., P.O. Box 95

Concord, NH 03302-0095

maryann.tilton@des.nh.gov

RE: Proposed wetlands rule change – Sugar Hill Conservation Commission (SHCC) comments.

Dear Administrator Tilton,

The Sugar Hill Conservation Commission appreciates the opportunity to provide input into the proposed rules for wetlands currently being revised by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Here is a list of our comments and concerns:

- We think it would be helpful to be able to confer with an applicant for a wetland permit early or during the entire application process. This could save time and reduce frustration from potential misunderstandings of the requirements for approval for both the applicant and the Conservation Commission.
- At times we have been frustrated by getting the wetlands proposals so late that we are unable to provide input and suggestions. Having input from the CC earlier would allow for a more collaborative process with the applicant.
- However, it is important to have the DES continue to work with applicants if conflicts arise. There needs to be a clear path of instructions for a CC to follow in communicating with the DES in order to resolve issues if an applicant does not want to entertain suggestions or recommendations from the CC.

With the effort to streamline the application process for developers, we do not want to cut out conservation commissions. We are the boots on the ground in our communities. Is there any way DES could incorporate more electronic communication into the process?

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on these proposed rules.

We look forward to working with the Department throughout this rule-making process.

Sincerely,

The members of the Sugar Hill Conservation Commission:

Cathy Strasser, Chairman

