



Norse Environmental Services, Inc.
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July 22, 2024

Reading Conservation Commission
16 Lowell Street
Reading, MA 01867

Re: 167 Belmont Street
Reading, MA 01867

Commissioners,

Norse Environmental Services, Inc. performed a site visit on July 17, 2024, and met with Mr. Richard Kaminski and Mr. Jeff Sarre. The Commission noted a “squishy” area of lawn near the tree line. Mr. Sarre mentioned he recently seeded and has been watering the bare spot of soil within the past month.

I augured in two different locations of the questionable lawn area. I augured to a depth of 24”-36” and noted a deep topsoil/fill material. The soil was a sandy loam with a color of 10 YR 3/2 with no evidence of redoximorphic features, concentrations, pore linings or oxidized rhizospheres. I did not observe a water table, saturated soil, evidence of local ponding, water marks on trees, water-stained leaves, or other wetland hydrology indicators. The soil is not hydric or wetland soil.

The vegetation consists of red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*) in the overstory. The understory consists of multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), northern catalpa (*Catalpa speciosa*), American elder (*Sambucus canadensis*), and black cherry (*Prunus serotina*). The vine layer consists of bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*). Most of the vegetation is classified as upland plants except for the maples and elder.


The Web Soil Survey maps the site as Merrimac-Urban land and Freetown soil. Merrimac-Urban Land Complex consists of nearly level to undulating, deep, somewhat excessively drained Merrimac soils and areas of urban land. The Merrimac soil consists of nearly level to steep, deep (5+ ft.), somewhat excessively drained soils on glacial outwash plains, terraces and kames. They formed in water-sorted, sandy glacial material. Merrimac soils have friable fine sandy loam and sandy loam surface soil and subsoil with moderately rapid permeability over a loose stratified sand and gravel substrata at 18 to 30 inches with rapid permeability. They have few limitations for most uses. The map unit consists of 75 percent Merrimac and similar soils and at least 25 percent urban land and other disturbed areas. Urban land consists of streets, parking lots, building and other structures.

The wetland at the rear of the property is a Freetown soil. The Freetown series consists of nearly level, deep (5+ ft.) very poorly drained organic soils in depressions and on flat areas of uplands and glacial outwash plains. They formed in 51 inches to many feet of black, highly decomposed organic material (muck) over sandy or loamy mineral material. Permeability is moderate or moderately rapid. They have a water table which is at or near the surface most of the year. Major limitations are related to wetness and low strength.

The single-family dwelling was constructed in 1966, and the property has been manipulated over the years. The "squishy" area is due to watering the grass seed to ensure growth and establishment of lawn. I did NOT observe any wetland or hydric soils, wetland hydrology indicators or predominance of wetland plants. It is my professional opinion that the questionable area of lawn shall is an upland.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Maureen Herald, PWS, CWS