



Reading Conservation Commission
16 Lowell Street
Reading, MA 01867

May 6, 2025

Re: Results of Evaluation for Vernal Pool Characteristics
885 Main Street, Reading, MA 01867

INTRODUCTION

Goddard Consulting, LLC performed a site survey on April 8th, 2025, to inspect the bordering vegetated wetland (BVW) located in the northern portion of the property addressed as 885 Main Street in Reading, MA. According to MassGIS data layers, this BVW is not mapped as a potential vernal pool (PVP). The site was revisited as a precaution during the height of the spring breeding season to determine if any portion of this wetland meets any criteria for vernal pool certification.

BACKGROUND

Goddard Consulting delineated the property addressed as 885 Main Street in Reading on November 25, 2024. A BVW was flagged in the northern portion of the property, to the rear of the existing single-family home. The BVW had no standing water at the time of the delineation, nor did it appear to ever hold a substantial amount of water.

During a public hearing for the Notice of Intent on this site, abutters made comments on if this area was a vernal pool. The Conservation Commission subsequently requested this area to be evaluated for vernal pool characteristics.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

On April 30, 2025, the BVW was inspected for vernal pool characteristics and breeding evidence for obligate and facultative species by a qualified wildlife biologist. As visible in the photos attached to this letter, minimal standing water was observed during the breeding season for obligate vernal pool species such as wood frogs, spotted salamander, and fairy shrimp. These species require substantial standing water to successfully breed. There is no distinct depression within the wetland that is capable of hold standing water for the necessary minimum time of two contiguous months as specified under the Reading Wetland Bylaw and Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act. Water depth averaged 1-3" with one area shown in Photo 3 and 4 containing slightly deeper water, approximately 6-7". Although the 6-7" depth is enough to contain egg masses, it would likely dry up most years prior to the end of vernal pool season. Additionally, no egg masses, tadpoles, larvae, or fairy shrimp were found in this area or any area on-site. All areas containing standing water were thoroughly searched visually and with a dip net. Due to the overall shallow depth of water, this BVW lacks essential breeding and rearing habitat functions for vernal pool species.

As stated above, the inspection took place during the height of the spring vernal pool breeding season. No obligate or facultative species, egg masses, or additional breeding evidence were found in the shallow pockets of water that were present on-site within the BVW during the inspection. The area on site cannot be a vernal pool because it lacks the physical characteristics and biological data to qualify as one.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Ryan Roseen
Lead Wildlife Biologist

SITE PHOTOS



Photo 1. MassGIS data layer for certified and potential vernal pools.



Photo 2. A photo taken of the BVW. Minimal standing water can be seen.



Photo 3. A photo taken of the BVW. Minimal standing water can be seen.



Photo 4. Another view of a portion of the BVW. Minimal standing water can be seen.