

Project Description

The applicants had a total of ten eastern white pine trees cut down and removed in an area immediately behind and to the side of their house. The applicants retained the services of Wetland Strategies and Solutions, LLC (WSS) to assist with responding to the Enforcement Order issued by the Sudbury Conservation Commission on April 30, 2018. Attachment 1-a is a copy of the MassDEP Wetland Map showing the location of the property and surrounding properties. On May 16 and 23, 2018, WSS visited the site to delineate the boundary of the Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) behind (west of) the house and patio, and to evaluate conditions at the site. Attachment 2 is a Google Earth image showing the property, the locations of the 5 flags hung by WSS to delineate the boundary of the BVW, and the areas of disturbance. Also, see the photographs at the end of this narrative. Attachments 4-a and 4-b are the MassDEP BVW delineation field data forms completed by WSS to document the boundary of the BVW.

There is an intermittent stream located west of and behind the house down a short, fairly steep slope. WSS used the USGS Stream Stats (<https://water.usgs.gov/osw/streamstats>) to confirm that this un-named stream is intermittent rather than perennial. See Attachment 3, Stream Stats Report. Also, there is Bank along the stream channel. This Bank is fairly narrow, with the top-of-bank located within the BVW.

Eight of the trees were located adjacent to the patio behind the house. The ten trees all were located close to the house, between approximately 25 to 45 feet away. The cut stumps are numbered 1 through 10 with black marker, from north to south, with trees 1 through 8 behind the house and trees 9 and 10 on the south side of the house in a lawn area. The applicants were concerned that the closeness and size of these ten trees posed a significant safety risk to the house. The diameters of the ten cut tree stumps and their distance from the BVW boundary are shown in the table below.

Tree Number	Stump Diameter in inches	Distance from BVW Boundary in feet
1	24	16
2	22	6
3	35	5.5
4	12	5.5
5	29	7
6	17	8
7	30	16
8	27	38
9	14	47

10	26	49
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Photographs at the end of this narrative show the cut tree stumps and slope just beyond the stumps. Note the closeness of the trees to the house and the steep slope just beyond the cut stumps. The trees were cut by hand using a chainsaw, then removed. No vehicles or other machines were used. All of the cut trees are located in the upland Buffer Zone (“upland resource area”). The photographs show that no disturbance to the ground surface or other vegetation occurred.

### Proposed Replanting Plan

As the trees were cut and removed due to safety and property damage concerns, no replanting of trees is proposed. Rather, WSS proposes to plant 10 to 12 shrubs at the top of the slope (where the trees were cut and removed) and/or slightly below the top of the slope. As visible in the photographs, there remain many trees, mostly eastern white pine, and many saplings, shrubs, and ground cover along the top of the slope and across the back and side yards of the house. The objectives of replanting are two-fold:

- Revegetate and better screen the slope, BVW, and stream; and,
- Use shrubs that provide food and cover benefits for pollinators, birds, and small mammals.

Proposed shrub stock to be planted are fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*) and low-bush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolia*). These are native species and normally available from the nursery/garden shop at Garden-in-the-Woods (New England Wild Flower Society) in Framingham. The stock would be installed by hand; no machinery would be used. Precise locations for planting these shrubs will be determined at the time of installation, but all the shrubs will be installed within the approximately 85 feet by 6 feet area where the eight trees were cut along the top of the slope. Because the other two trees were located in a lawn area more than 10 feet from the top of the slope, no shrubs would be planted in this location. Focusing the replanting solely along the top of the slope will better enhance the affected Buffer Zone.



**CUT EASTERN WHITE PINE STUMPS JUST BEHIND THE PATIO. JUST BEYOND THE STUMPS IS THE SLOPE DOWN TO THE BVW AND STREAM**



**CUT STUMP AND SLOPE DOWN TO THE BVW AND STREAM**



**SLOPE BEYOND STUMPS. STREAM IS SLIGHTLY VISIBLE AT CENTER LEFT EDGE OF PHOTO.**



**CUT STUMPS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO PATIO AND HOUSE**



**CUT STUMPS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO PATIO AND HOUSE**



**SLOPE DOWN TO BVW AND STREAM, WITH A BVW PINK FLAG IN PHOTO CENTER. STREAM IS BEYOND FLAG.**

