



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

Community Development Department
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Planning Department
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Memo

TO: Conservation Commission Members
FROM: Peter Britz, Environmental Planner 
DATE: April 8, 2016
SUBJ: April 13, 2016 Conservation Commission Meeting

2839 Lafayette Road

This is an application for Conditional Use for impacts in the wetland buffer at the proposed site of a new bank. The application shows the wetland buffer in the SW corner of the property. An independent review of the wetland delineation has been conducted to confirm the wetland boundary and to determine if there is a connection between the wetland on site and wetlands adjacent to the site. The independent wetland scientist confirmed the delineation of the wetland boundary and stated that there is no natural wetland connection between this wetland and the two potential adjacent wetland areas. However, in the field the wetland scientist did confirm that there is a hydrologic connection between this wetland to the smaller wetland to the south in addition to a connection through a culvert under the access road behind the property. Staff believes that if this hydrologic connection can support wetland functions such as flood control, impoundment, pollutant retention and transport it can act as one wetland system. If the Commission is satisfied that this connection ties this wetland directly to a much larger wetland than shown, staff believes that the wetland shown on the applicant's property should be considered a jurisdictional wetland due to its combined size of over 10,000 square feet in area.

After the Conservation Commission is able to satisfy itself as to whether the wetland is jurisdictional or not a decision must be made as to whether to proceed with the application or postpone review of the application based on this new information.