

Request for Determination of Applicability – Work Description and Plan

Two Maple Farm
Orchard & Pasture Expansion
7 Avery Brook Rd., Charlemont, MA 01339
January 6, 2025

Prepared for:
Town of Charlemont Conservation Commission

Project Narrative

1. Introduction

We propose to clear two thickets of invasive vegetation (e.g. shrubs, weeds, and brambles) on our property in two areas: (1) on the north side of the barn; and (2) on the southeast side of our orchard. The purposes of the project are to improve our land by (a) preventing encroachment of invasive plants into the barn area; (b) recover pasture for livestock grazing; (c) expand our orchard, herb, and flower gardens; and (d) reduce pressure on our tree population from invasive species.

2. Site Overview

We used GIS layers from MassGIS to overlay the most updated data from DEP regarding wetlands and environmental resources on our property. From these data and from our own assessment, we do not believe that there are any WPA-protected resource areas on the property. Nor is the property within the 100-Year Flood Zone identified by FEMA in 2022, according to MassGIS. In reviewing the Registry of Deeds, we found no prior Orders of Conditions that might indicate that wetlands might exist on the property.

The Deerfield River runs approximately parallel to the southern property line. The riverbank comes closest to the property at the southwestern most point of our property line, where the riverbank is 130 feet from the property line. However, that section of the land is in a depressed area of the property that we do not cultivate and do not intend to alter.

We propose to excavate and subsequently manage vegetation in areas on the elevated fields, in the areas designated by the black ovals in Figure A. The proposed work begins 228 feet north of the Deerfield River at its closest point (see the blue line on Figure A).

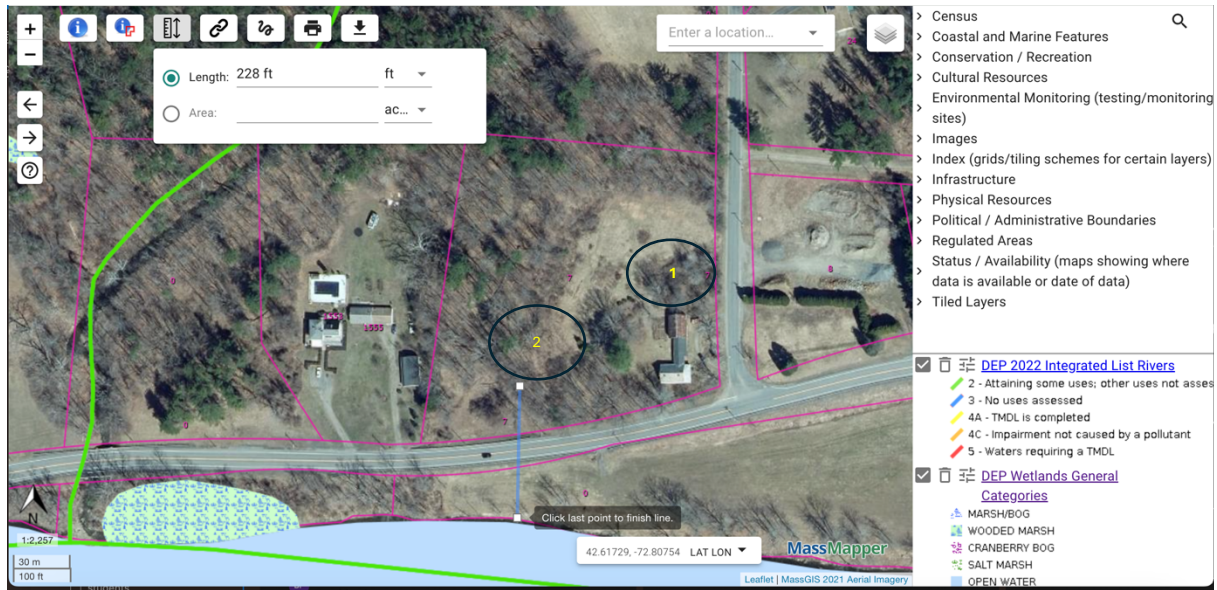


Figure A – Project Distance from Deerfield River Resource Area

3. Proposed Activities

We propose to manage our field edges by excavating vegetation in the areas designated by areas 1 and 2 in Figure A. Invasive species will be removed and replaced with cover crops, fruit trees, herbs, and vegetables. Livestock grazing will help to mitigate against the return of invasive species.

The excavation work will be performed by Eric Dean of Dean Structures of Charlemont, MA between March and November of 2025.

4. Request for Negative Determination / Exemption

We respectfully request that the Conservation Commission issue a Negative Determination, on the bases that (a) the work performed will not impact a WPA resource area; and (b) the work is for agricultural purposes that involves normal maintenance or improvement of the land, and is therefore exempt from further Conservation Commission review under the WPA.