



#D21-5.1
Town of Wallingford, Connecticut

INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

Date Submitted: 5/4/21
Date Received: 5/5/21
Request #: #D21-5.1

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF EXEMPTION
Under Section 4 - Permitted Uses As of Right and Nonregulated Uses

Person Filing Request: Emily Picard, Agricultural Science Teacher, Lyman Hall High School
Address of Subject Property: 70 Pond Hill Road Wallingford, CT 06492
Mailing Address (if different): Lyman Hall High School Attn: Emily Picard 70 Pond Hill Road, Wallingford, CT 06492
Property Owner Name (printed) and Signature: Town of Wallingford (Town & Board of Ed)

1. Pursuant to Section 4.4 of the Regulations, this is an request for determination of exemption under the following Section of the Regulations (see copy of pertinent sections attached to this form) Circle one: Section 4.1.a, 4.1.c, 4.1.e, 4.2.a, 4.2.b, 4.3, 4.4.

4.2.a + 4.2.b

2. Provide below (or attach additional pages if necessary) sufficient information relative to the activity(ies) proposed and its relation to present uses on the property to enable the IWWC to properly determine if the proposed use or operation is a permitted or nonregulated use. You may include historic information, any uses or operations, dimensions or extent of proposed activity(ies), distance from wetlands or watercourses, a real extent of wetlands or length of watercourses proposed to be altered/disturbed by the proposed activity(ies).

Please see attached

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MAY 04 2021

WLFD. INLAND/WETLAND

3. If agricultural activities are proposed, provide below all proposed farm crops, and farm-related improvements proposed within wetlands, watercourses, or within the upland review area. (Attach additional pages as needed.)

N/A

4. Should the activity involve silviculture/timbering activities under Section 4.1.a., the "Notification of Timber Harvest" form will need to be submitted in addition to above required information. (Obtain form from the Environmental Planning Office.) N/A

5. Attach plot plan, survey, or drawing of the subject property depicting, at minimum, the following:
- wetlands
 - watercourses
 - 50-foot upland review area boundary
 - existing structures
 - proposed structures or features
 - activity area(s)
 - signature of preparer of drawing
 - date prepared

6. PROVIDE 11 COPIES OF THIS ORIGINAL FORM AND 12 COPIES OF ANY ATTACHMENTS

7. As owner of the property, I hereby consent to necessary and proper inspections of the above mentioned property by members and agents of the Wallingford Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, at reasonable times, both before and after the final determination has been issued:

[Signature] 5/2/21
(Signature) (date)

O = in wetland
Δ = within 50 feet (URA) of wetland, stream

Question 2

1. Invasive Plant Removal

- Japanese knotweed is present on the property, mostly confined to the yellow area #3 on the map. We intend to cover the knotweed with tarps in efforts to kill it. Then we would replant the area with native plants. Grant funding from the Southwest Conservation District has been acquired.
- Garlic mustard, japanese honeysuckle, winged euonymus, mugwort and autumn olive are the primary invasive species present. The pink sections #2 and #4 on the map show the location of the majority of these plants. We intend to remove these invasive species through mechanical means (cutting with pruners, saws and hand pulling), providing room for native plants to grow. We may replace plants with native cuttings we propagate.

2. Kiosk: A kiosk will be installed on either end of the sidewalk, one on the Pat Wall side and another on the Lyman Hall side. These will be placed so they do not interfere with mowing, parking or recreational areas.

3. Trail Installation: There is currently a trail that leads into the property from the sidewalk that runs between Pat Wall Field and Lyman Hall. We would like to continue that trail further to potentially access a bird blind at the northern section of the property. This would include small shrub and tree pruning with hand tools. We also would like to install signs identifying the trees along the trail so people can learn about the trees. The proposed trail is outlined in white on the map.

4. Stair Installation: Stairs from the practice football field down to the river would allow us to access this area better. Trail stairs with rebar and 2x4's retaining soil would be installed down the steep grade in order to prevent erosion.

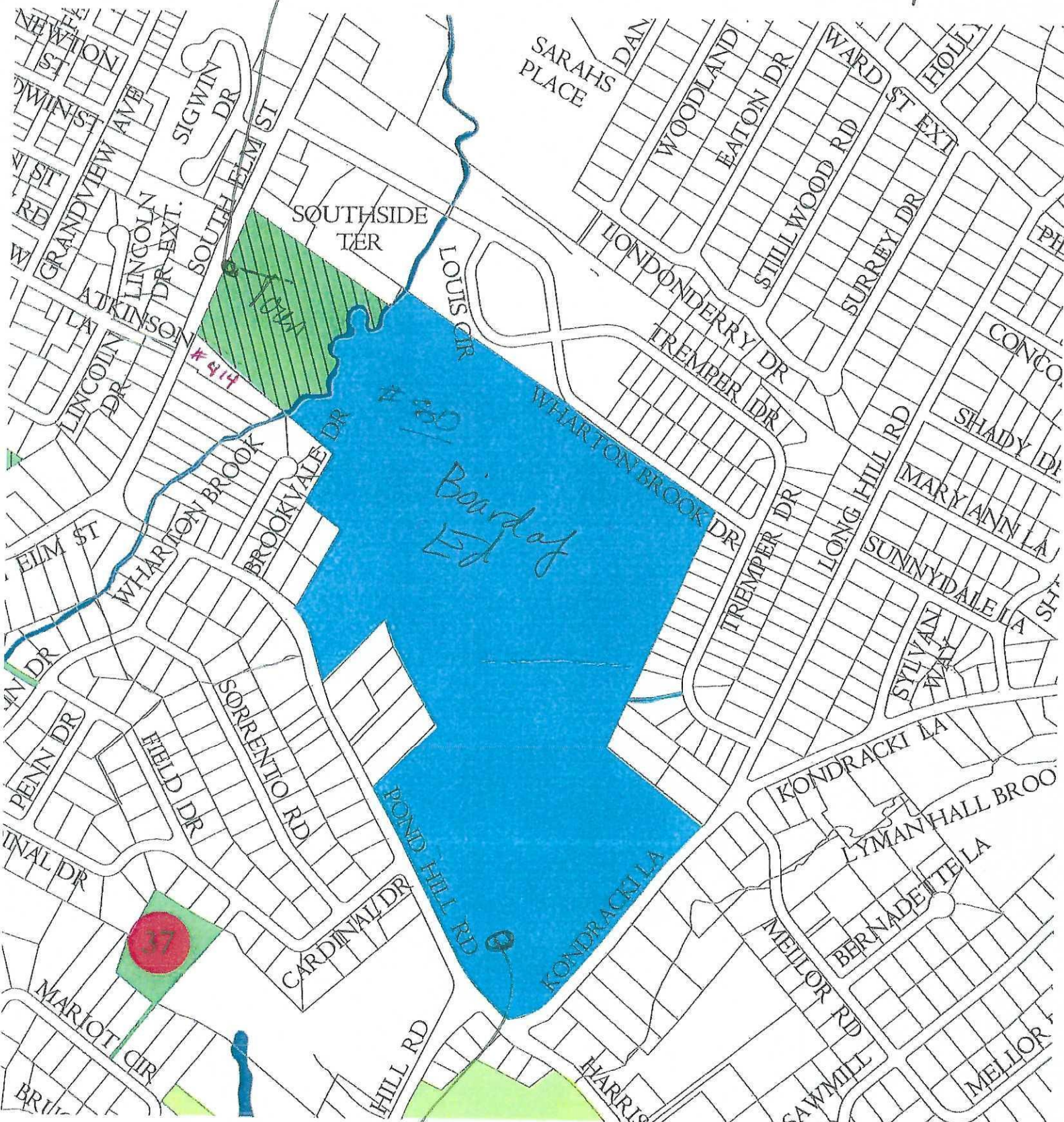
5. Outdoor Classroom: Benches with a podium would be installed close to the trail. Bench material has not yet been determined but would likely include wood and possibly cement.

6. Bird Blind: A wooden bird blind would be constructed to provide a wildlife observation site.

Wildlife Biology Land Lab Compartment Map

Pat Wall Field Park

Assessor's map

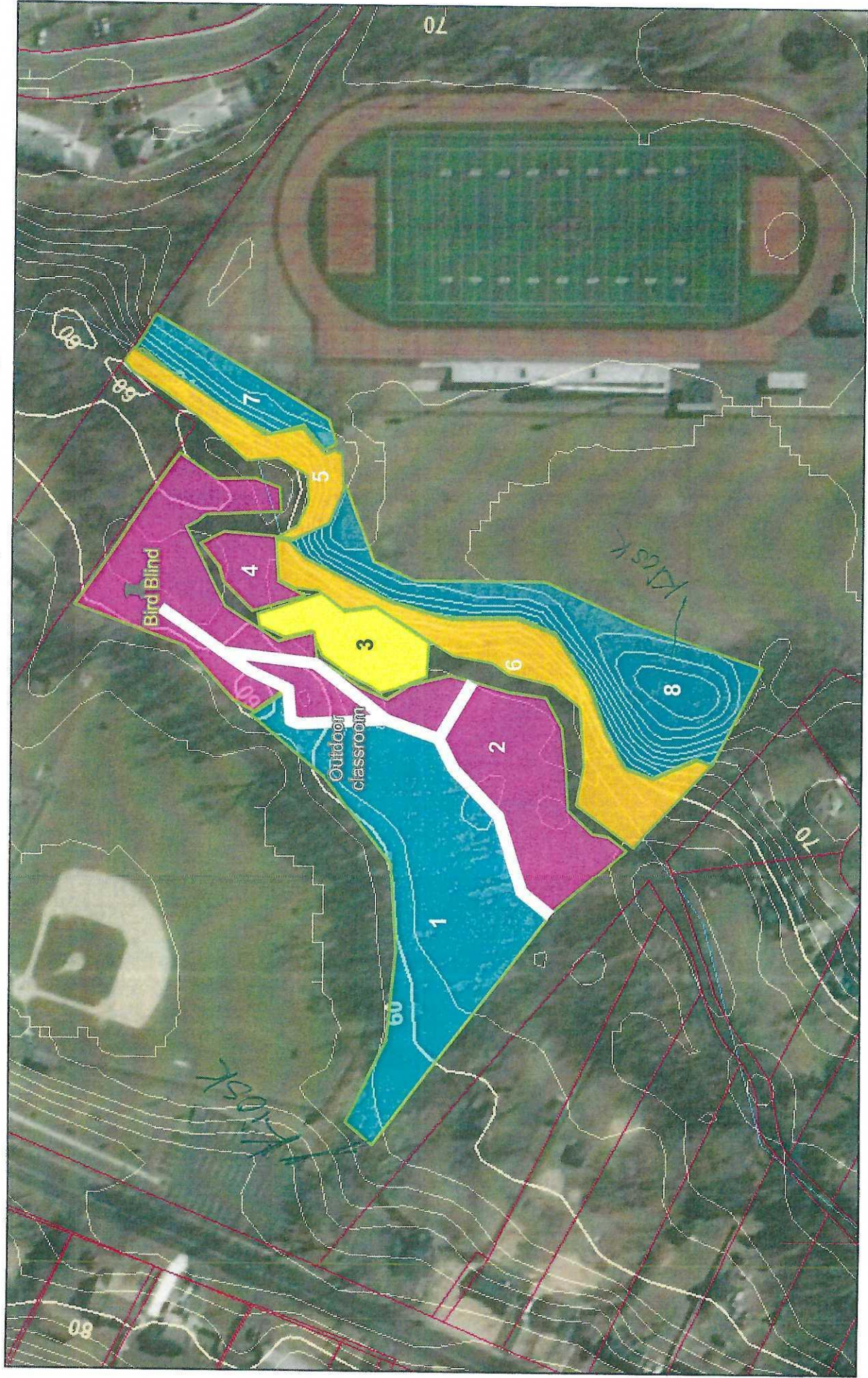


Lyman Hall High School Campus



Project Area - - - -
Aerial Image

Wildlife Biology Land Lab Compartment Map



5/4/2021

- 1 - Blue - Mixed deciduous
- 2 - Pink - Mixed Invasives
- 3 - Yellow - Japanese Knotweed

- 4 - Pink - mixed Invasives
- 5 - highly erodable
- 6 - " "
- 7 + 8 - Blue Mixed deciduous

USGS, CT DEEP, Maxar, Microsoft, CT DEEP, UCONN CLEAR, CT DEEP.

Wetlands Map WBL



History

Rob Kovi, Career and Technical Education coordinator for Wallingford Public Schools, inquired about the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to CTE teachers. Emily Picard, Wildlife Biology teacher in the Ag Science program at Lyman Hall High School identified Wharton Brook as an opportunity to designate a space for a land lab for the Wildlife Biology class. Emails were exchanged between Mary Heffernon from the Wallingford Conservation Commission, Kenny Michaels from the Park and Recreation department, Kurt Treiber Risk Manager, Rob Kovi and Emily Picard discussing the idea of designating the land between the two schools as the Wildlife Biology Land Lab. The group members met and agreed that this area would be a great place for such an opportunity. Mary sent the Request for Determination of Exemption from Erin O'Hare.

Emily Picard reached out to the South West Conservation District about the invasive plants and some erosion issues. Chris Sullivan, executive director of the SWCD came out to check out the site and has obtained a \$3000 grant to fund the management of Japanese Knotweed and native plants to restore the area.

Request	To designate a section of the Lyman Hall campus along Wharton Brook as the "Wildlife Biology Land Lab"
Purpose	A place on campus where long term curriculum projects could be conducted.
Rationale	<p>Designating a place as a land lab for the use of the Wildlife Biology class in the Ag Science program at Lyman Hall will allow us to conduct long term curriculum related projects. A designated spot is necessary so these projects can be carried out without installation of other facilities (ex. pasture fencing, outdoor classroom).</p> <p>Over the past 10 years, it has been difficult to watch this area deteriorate especially when we have the tools, science and manpower to restore it. The site provides countless opportunities for case studies. The FFA motto is learning to do, doing to learn, earning to live and living to serve. Using this area as a site to implement that motto would be ideal.</p> <p>This site provides the perfect opportunity to practice place-based education, project based learning and connect our students to the environment.</p>
Current Use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Field observations 2. Water quality monitoring
Potential Use	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Field observation 2. Water quality monitoring 3. Habitat management - establish management goals, research techniques, partner with natural resource professionals (technical assistance, grants, equipment, etc.), present plans to the town environmental planner for approval, implement and track goal progress (long term). 4. Mapping - Use map and compass, GPS, GIS, drone aerial footage, triangulation for radio telemetry simulations (wildlife tracking). 5. Wildlife monitoring - game cameras, acoustic monitoring, track casting, nest box installation, etc.
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would this still be open to the public? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Of course! • Can we still use the sidewalk to cut through? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Of course! • Are the students going to tear up the area without consulting professionals or getting town planner approval? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Absolutely not!

Map 1

Area outlined in solid blue indicates Lyman Hall High School campus and the blue dashed area identifies the area proposed as the Wildlife Biology Land Lab. The dashed line is approximate. A wonderful lesson in land management would be to locate and GPS the property boundaries.

CT Environmental Conditions Online **Advanced Viewer**

1997 Municipal and Private O...
Description
School
Name: Lyman Hall High School
Details
Category: School
Name: Lyman Hall High School
Ownership: Municipal
Code: MS1
Description: Municipal school open to public without fee
GIS Acres: 51.3618



Map 2

The area outlined in orange dashes, about 5 acres, is the site requested to be included in the Wildlife Biology Land Lab.

CT Environmental Conditions Online **Advanced Viewer**

