

EBT Environmental Consultants, Inc.
GLENN E. KREVOSKY, CONSULTANT

601 Main Street
North Oxford, MA 01537
glenn.krevosky@charter.net
Cell: (508)769-3659 Office: (508)987-0979

Sturbridge Conservation Commission
308 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA 01566

May 5, 2022

Re. 263 & 269 New Boston Road, Sturbridge – Non-Vernal Pool Study

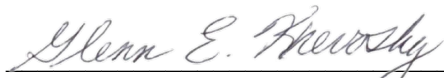
Dear Commission,

As the photo exhibit array, which extends from 3/9/2022 to 5/1/2022, indicates, the 263 New Boston Road pool never contained water during our review period.

The 269 New Boston Road pool (photo exhibit from 2/20/2022 to 5/1/2022) is exceedingly shallow when it does contain water and had dried up by 5/1 – even though April 2022 had slightly above normal rainfall. This pool did not hold water for two continuous months during the spring when the water table is generally at its highest (this pool was also dry by the end of May 2021).

To conclude, due to the draining effect of the glacial outwash Hydrologic Soil Group A gravel pit located directly west of the site, the wetlands to the east of the gravel pit have been exceedingly drained to the point where they are reverting along their margins to a predominance of upland vegetation and any former pooling areas now do not contain enough water to support vernal pool inhabitants.

Respectfully,



Glenn E. Krevosky, Consultant

Site: 263 New Boston Road, Sturbridge



Photo 1 taken by EBT, Inc. on 2/20/2022 at 3:53pm – Pool located in the southwest corner of 269 New Boston Road. The frozen pool is approximately 16' long by 7' wide containing ~4" of ice. This was the beginning date of looking at the pool in 2022.

Site: 263 New Boston Road, Sturbridge



Photo 1 taken by EBT, Inc. on 3/9/2022 at 1:21pm – Potential vernal pool identified on MassMapper containing no water.



Photo 2 taken by EBT, Inc. on 3/9/2022 at 1:18pm – Pool located in the southwest corner of 269 New Boston Road. The pool is approximately 16' long by 7' wide containing ~4" of water, also ice covered.

Site: 263 & 269 New Boston Road, Sturbridge



Photo 1 taken by EBT, Inc. on 3/19/2022 at 12:40pm – Potential vernal pool identified on MassMapper on 263 New Boston Road containing no water. The area also contained no water on 3/9/2022. EBT, Inc will be reviewing the site between 3/22/2022 and 3/23/2022.



Photo 2 taken by EBT, Inc. on 3/19/2022 at 12:38pm – Pool located in the southwest corner of 269 New Boston Road. The pool is approximately 4' long by 4' wide containing ~1" to 2" of water. Glenn Krevosky of EBT, Inc seined through the spot of water and found no macroinvertebrates or amphibians. Prior to moving on the pool I waited for approximately 7 minutes to hear if there was any chorusing of Spring Peepers or Grey Tree Frogs, there were none.

Site: 263 & 269 New Boston Road, Sturbridge



Photo 1 taken by EBT, Inc. on 3/26/2022 at 11:58am – Potential vernal pool identified on MassMapper at 263 New Boston Road containing no water.



Photo 2 taken by EBT, Inc. on 3/26/2022 at 11:53am – Pool located in the southwest corner of 269 New Boston Road. The pool is approximately 13' long by 7' wide containing ~4" of water. National Weather Service recorded 1.31 inches of rain in Sturbridge between 3/24 and 3/25.

Site: 263 & 269 New Boston Road, Sturbridge



Photo 1 taken by EBT, Inc. on 4/10/2022 at 1:27pm – Potential vernal pool identified on MassMapper at 263 New Boston Road containing no water.



Photo 2 taken by EBT, Inc. on 4/10/2022 at 1:32pm – Pool located in the southwest corner of 269 New Boston Road. The pool is approximately 16' long by 9' wide containing ~6" of water. It rained approximately 1.4 inches at the end of the week (we cannot get more accurate data as the NOAA Online Weather Data is not functioning at this time). We paused for 10 minutes to hear for chorusing, non was recorded. We then went to the pool and seined and found no Fairy Shrimp and no Wood Frog or Ambystoma egg masses.

Site: 263 & 269 New Boston Road, Sturbridge



Photo 1 taken by EBT, Inc. on 4/14/2022 at 3:51pm – Potential vernal pool identified on MassMapper at 263 New Boston Road containing no water.



Photo 2 taken by EBT, Inc. on 4/14/2022 at 3:50pm – Pool located in the southwest corner of 269 New Boston Road. The pool is approximately 4' long by 4' wide containing ~1" of water. We paused for 10 minutes to listen for chorusing prior to accessing near the pool, none was recorded. We then went to the pool and seined and found no Fairy Shrimp and no Wood Frog or Ambystoma egg masses, but we did find mosquito larvae (third photo).

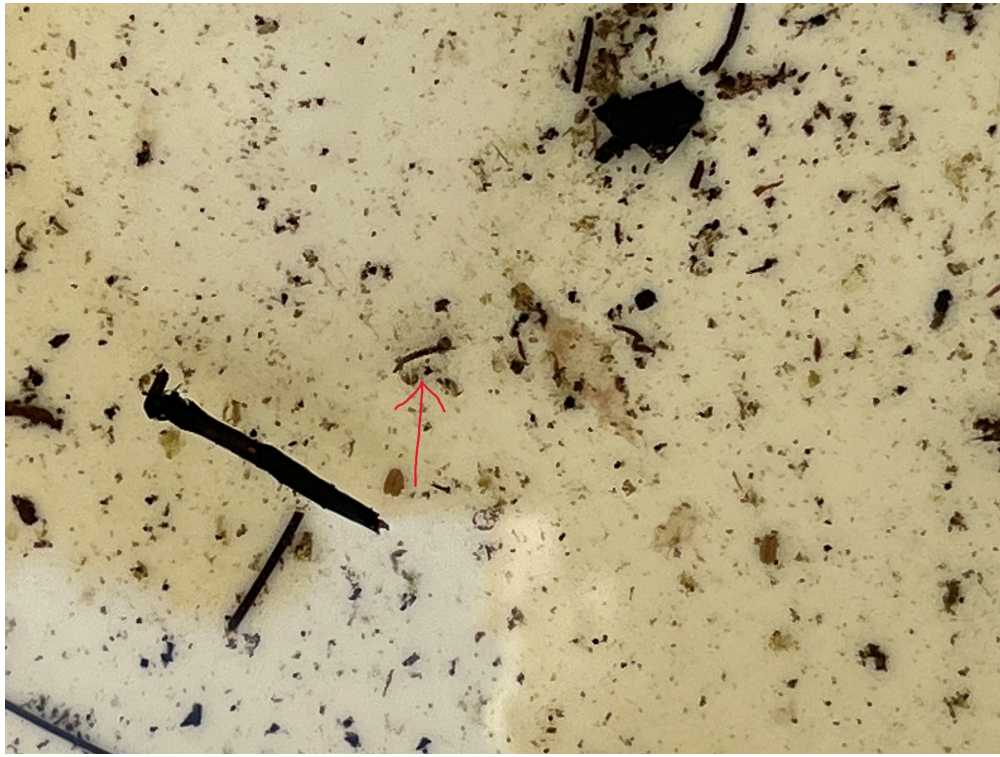


Photo 3 taken by EBT, Inc. on 4/14/2022 at 3:47pm – Showing mosquito larvae seined from the pool on 269 New Boston Road.

Site: 263 & 269 New Boston Road, Sturbridge



Photo 1 taken by EBT, Inc. on 4/17/2022 at 2:39pm – Potential vernal pool identified on MassMapper at 263 New Boston Road containing no water.



Photo 2 taken by EBT, Inc. on 4/17/2022 at 2:38pm – Pool located in the southwest corner of 269 New Boston Road. There is no open water at the pool, there is only leaves at the surface with water between them. We paused for 10 minutes to listen for chorusing prior to accessing near the pool, none was recorded. There was no volume of water to sein through.

Site: 263 & 269 New Boston Road, Sturbridge



Photo 1 taken by EBT, Inc. on 4/24/2022 at 12:03pm – Potential vernal pool identified on MassMapper at 263 New Boston Road containing no water.



Photo 2 taken by EBT, Inc. on 4/24/2022 at 12:00pm – Pool located in the southwest corner of 269 New Boston Road. The area is approximately 5' by 4' with approximately 1.5" of water in the center - there was approximately 1.23 inches of rain on 4/19 (NOAA data). We paused for 10 minutes to listen for chorusing prior to accessing near the pool, none was recorded. We seined through the small volume of water and found only mosquito larvae.

Site: 263 & 269 New Boston Road, Sturbridge



Photo 1 taken by EBT, Inc. on 5/1/2022 at 12:41pm – Potential vernal pool identified on MassMapper at 263 New Boston Road containing no water. No water was at the surface through the study period of March and April 2022.

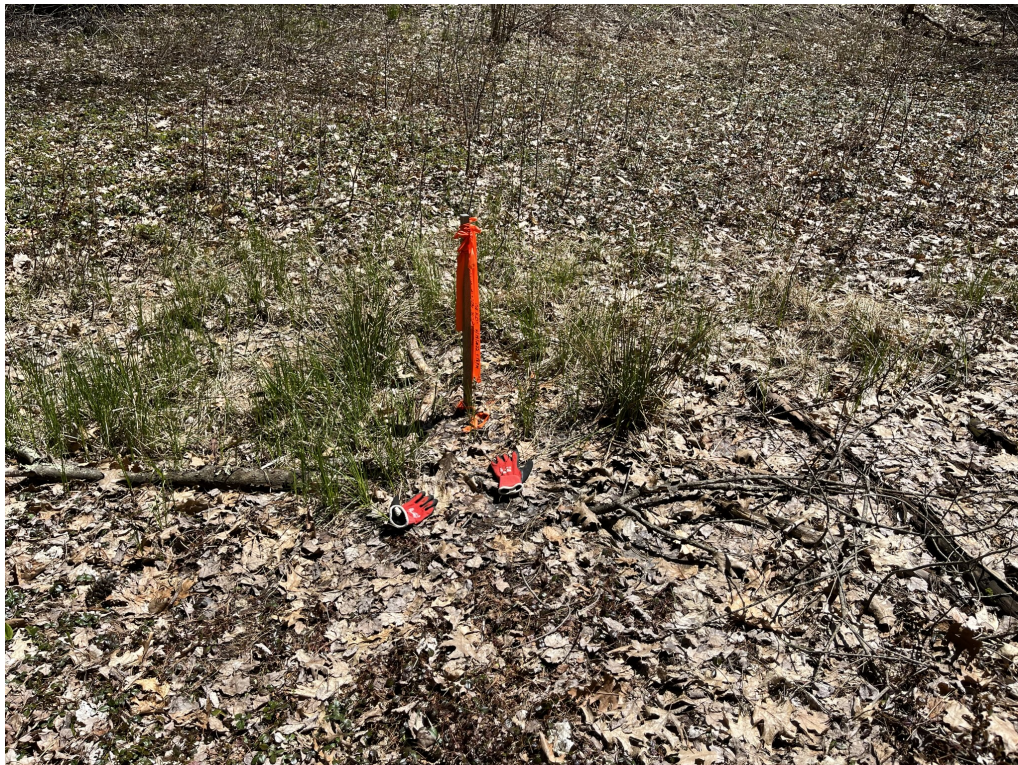


Photo 2 taken by EBT, Inc. on 5/1/2022 at 12:39pm – Pool located in the southwest corner of 269 New Boston Road containing no water. We paused for 10 minutes to listen for chorusing prior to accessing near the dried-up pool, no chorusing had occurred in the past nor was there chorusing at this time. There was no volume of water to sein through.