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August 31, 2020

Mannarino Builders, Inc.
400 Chapel Road, Unit 3-F
South Windsor, CT 06704

ATTN: Mr. Rob Mannarino

RE: *OPEN SPACE SUBDIVISION*
Abbe Road & Maskel Road, South Windsor, CT
REMA Job # 19-2189-SWN108

Dear Mr. Mannarino:

At your request, on August 31st, 2020, REMA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES, LLC (REMA), conducted an inspection of the above-referenced site for the proposed Open Space subdivision. REMA's primary objective was to search the site for the potential of nesting by bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), reportedly observed by a neighboring property owner.

The undersigned REMA wildlife biologist, spent a little over an hour at the site and within roughly 250 feet of the western portion of the site, searching for evidence of breeding by bald eagle (see attached search route). A third of that time was spent along the Eversource electric right-of-way, where the likelihood of observing raptors was highest. With the exception of one red-tailed hawk which was heard (but not seen) in the general environs, no other raptor was observed.

The bald eagle, which is State-listed as "threatened," will most often nest in mature forests adjacent to major rivers and other large bodies of water (i.e., lakes, reservoirs). Their "platform" nests, which are used year after year, are among the largest raptor nests, often 6 feet in diameter and 4 feet tall, thus they are easily spotted in large trees, such as conifers or



deciduous trees with a branching habit (e.g., American sycamore), even in the off season (i.e., October to March). We should note, that in our experience with bald eagle, we have only observed nests associated with major bodies of water (e.g., Canton – Nepaug Reservoir; Suffield – Conn. River; Rocky Hill – Conn. River; Middlebury – Lake Quassapaug; Monroe – Housatonic River/Lake Zoar).

Based on searching the largest birding database in Connecticut (i.e., eBird), there has been no sighting of bald eagle at the closest to the subject site “hot spot” (i.e., Frank Niederwerfer Wildlife Sanctuary) roughly half mile to the east. Bald eagle was observed at the two other closest “hot spots,” on May 20th, 2012, at the Major Donnelly Park, and on March 11th, 2019, at the Ferry Lane “hot spot,” adjacent to the Connecticut River.

We conclude that neither does the site present itself as suitable habitat for the breeding of bald eagle, nor was any evidence of breeding by this species observed.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions on the above.

Respectfully submitted,

REMA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES, LLC

George T. Logan, MS, PWS, CSE
Certified Senior Ecologist, Wildlife Biologist

VIA -E-MAIL

Attachment: Search Route

Reference:

Buehler, D. A. (2020). Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), version 1.0. In Birds of the World (A. F. Poole and F. B. Gill, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA.
<https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.baleag.01>

