

ENFORCEMENT REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD

Date: June 17, 2023

Location: 19 Twin Brook Drive

Owner: Mohamed Mahdi

Watershed: Springdale Brook

Account: 002-3070

Flood Map: 09001C0507F (6/18/2010)

Flood Zone: X – Minimal Chance Flood

Area: ~1.03 acres

Map/Block/Lot: 69/380/9

References

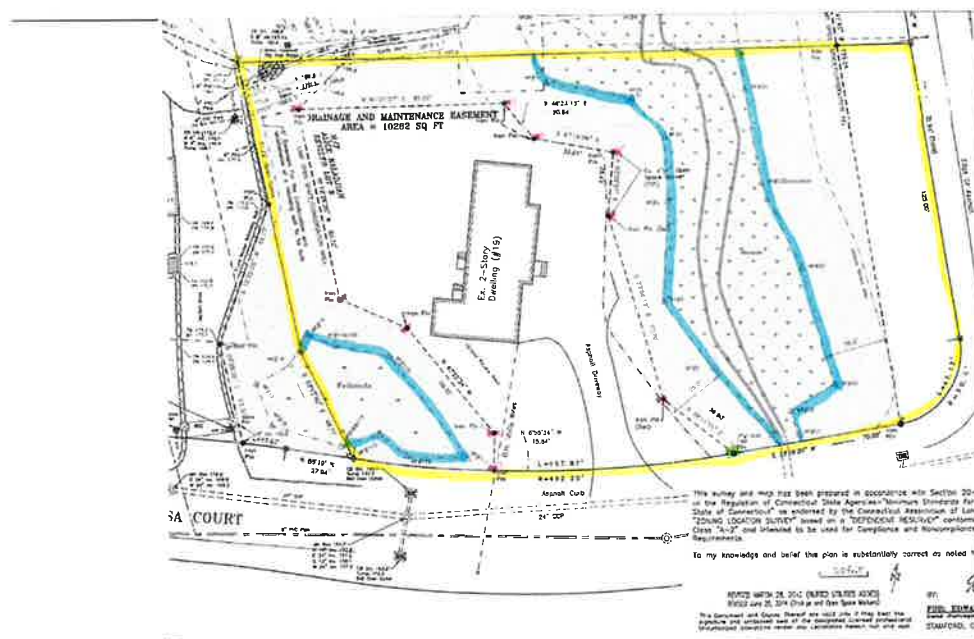
- Photos provided by property owner

Unauthorized Regulated Activities

Removal of trees from wetland.

Property Description

19 Twin Brook Drive is developed with a single-family residence and driveway. The tributary of Springdale Brook that flows to the south through the eastern half of the property is surrounded by a variable width swamp wetland. There is also an isolated wetland in the southwest corner of the property. In addition to the wetlands, a good portion of the remainder of the property that is not immediately around the house was put into a conservation easement in 2009 as part of subdivision #3965. All but one of the 4"x4" conservation easement markers shown around the landscape envelope on this portion of a March 2012 Edward J. Frattaroli survey are currently missing.



Issues/Discussion/Recommendation

Staff have visited this site a number of times during the past year following the wetland and conservation easement clearing violation that was found in July 2023. In mid-April 2024, while staff were on site inspecting the trees that Mr. Mahdi was required to plant as part of the Order to Correct issued by the Board in December 2023, a stockpile of soil was observed to the east of the driveway entrance. Mr. Mahdi stated he planned to use this soil to raise the grade around his house to improve drainage. Because the pile was temporary, staff did not require Mr. Mahdi to immediately move it, even though it was in the conservation easement. However, Mr. Mahdi was instructed to immediately install erosion controls to keep the soil from eroding into the nearby brook.

Staff passed by the site several times during the subsequent two months and repeated the instructions to Mr. Mahdi when no E&S controls were found. Then, on June 10, 2024, Mr. Mahdi sent staff an email saying he had resolved the problem. However, these photos that Mr. Mahdi also sent show that rather than install a silt fence or move the pile, he had constructed a stone wall close to the brook in the conservation easement area in the approximate location shown on the attached GIS printout.



Photos sent by M.Mahdi on June 10, 2024

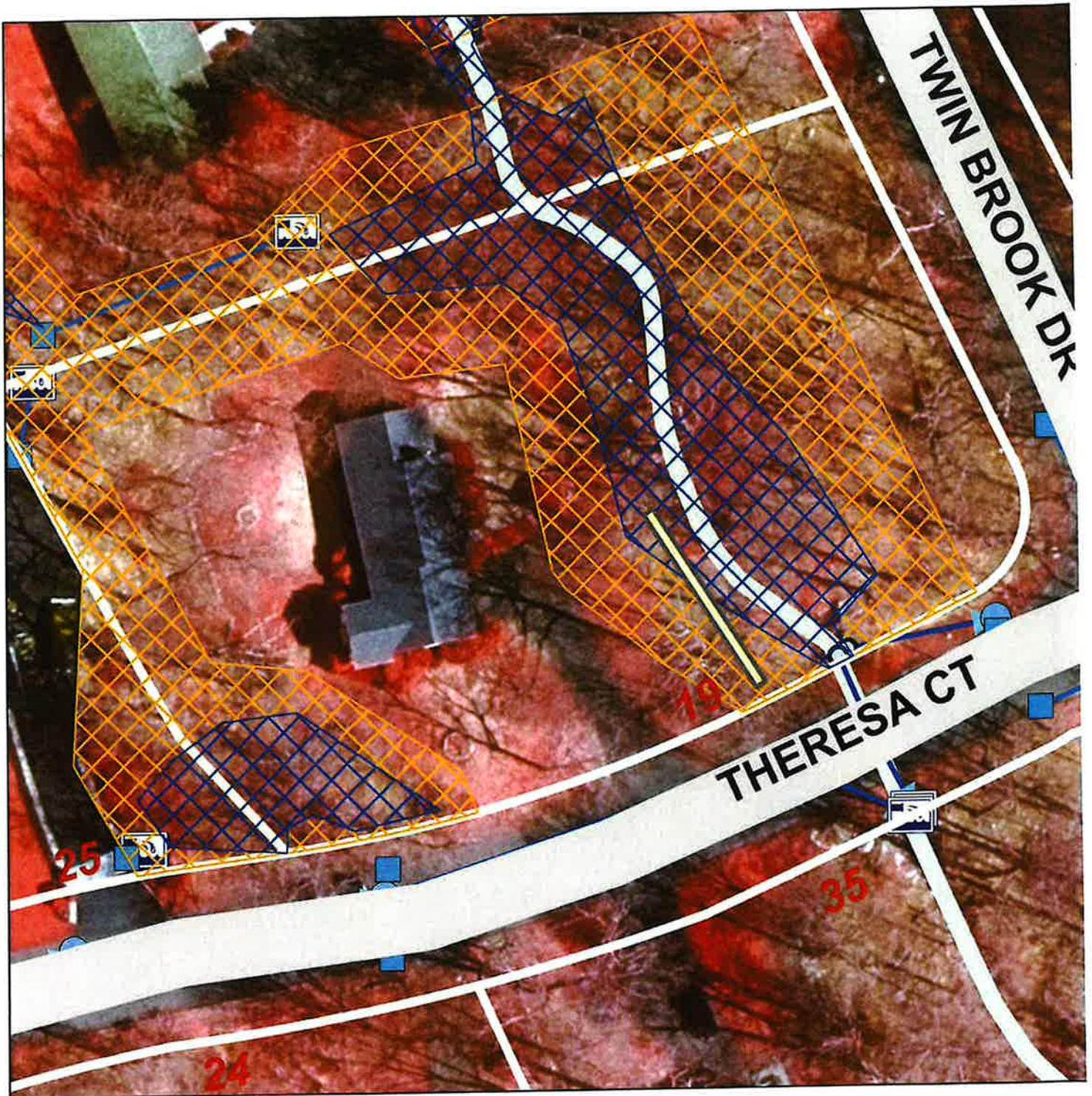
The Cease and Desist Order sent to Mr. Mahdi on June 13, 2024 informed him that he will have an opportunity to make his case to the Board at the Show Cause Hearing that will be held as part of the regularly scheduled EPB meeting on June 20, 2024.

Staff recommends the Board maintain the Cease and Desist Order and issue an Order to Correct that requires the removal of the stockpile and wall, installation of erosion controls to protect the brook, and restoration of the disturbed area with trees¹ and stabilizing ground cover. Staff also recommends the Board require the reinstallation of the conservation easement markers to their survey-accurate locations by August 15, 2024 rather than the September 15, 2024 deadline set in the December 2023 Order to Correct. Given the series of violations that have occurred here in the past year, staff also recommends the Board file a Notice of Violation on the Land Records and maintain this notice until the required corrective actions have been completed.



Robert E. Clausi

¹ e.g., Three native trees minimum 1.5" in diameter spaced 15-20' center to center to restore area of approximately 750 square feet.



Unauthorized wall and fill at 19 Twin Brook Drive

 *Approximate location of wall*

The information displayed on this map is for general reference only.
The data is not survey accurate. The City of Stamford assumes no legal
responsibility for the information contained herein.
Map printed 6/10/2024, City of Stamford.

0 20 40 80 Feet

