

Letter to West Tisbury Conservation Commission

2/2/23 Thursday

To whom it may concern,

My name is Chris Cottrell and I currently own a farm property located at 274 Indian Hill rd in West Tisbury. We are a member of the West Tisbury Agricultural Society , Mass farm bureau and are working on our farm status and are looking to be more self sustaining now and that's to increase in the future plan. Part of our plan is to grow food which and that includes gardening and raising chickens for meat and eggs and future chicks. Also, we are currently raising rabbits for meat and other birds for eggs. We are considering adding pheasant and other birds to help take care of the tremendous tick problem we have due to the enormous deer population. (I find at least 2 to 3 deer ticks on me a week and sometimes daily depending on conditions. I might add the nymphs are so small they are practically microscopic and I take precautions including prophylactic antibiotics. I have taken lone star, deer and dog ticks off me and I have to be quite careful because I'm a stage 4 cancer survivor and went through a year of Chemo and Methotrexate and am being checked and screened regularly for advancing cancer.)

I have a clearly marked wetland on my site plan performed by Julia Fisk about 2 years ago at the request of Maria McFarland of the WT Con Com. The roadside area that clearly catches the majority of the water was created by the town and the road they built years ago, with no regard for my water condition, so I will contest that the Town is somewhat responsible for some of this ongoing condition. In the summer, when it's dry for example, there is no water problem. That would tend to indicate that we have a seasonally wet condition.

The back of the property is also what I consider seasonally wet and my property happens to be lower than my 3 abutters, O Connell, Thompson and Counoyer. I'm the low spot, so moving forward I would be interested in mitigating this situation by installing some type of drainage that takes into consideration my future needs and also stay within the guidelines set by the conservation commission. Working together to solve this problem is important to me and I'm willing to explain to the Conservation Board and Abutters that I have a situation that we can mitigate and come up with a reasonable solution. I think together working as a team we can solve this dispute. I've asked Chris Alley to file a letter of intent and start the process to use the buffer zone to access the back of my property for agricultural purposes

Sincerely Chris Cottrell