

October 13, 2020

Ms. Carol York
92 Old Black Point Road
Niantic, CT 06357

CC: Gary Goeschel, East Lyme Planning director; Bob Pfanner, Engineer

Re: Proposed Subdivision, 92 Old Black Point Road, Niantic, Connecticut

Dear Ms. York:

The Office of State Archaeology (OSA) reviewed the project plans for the proposed single-lot residential subdivision project at 92 Old Black Point Road in Niantic (East Lyme). The planned project includes construction of a house and associated infrastructure, including utilities, and a proposed driveway to access the new lot from Old Black Point Road. The proposed new lot is located behind (east) and above the existing house on the property.

OSA reviewed state archaeological site files and reports, USDA soil maps, historic maps, LiDAR imagery, and aerial photographs to assess the archaeological sensitivity of the project area. The proposed project location sits in a residential area on Black Point in Niantic. In general, this area is considered to have extremely high archaeological sensitivity, based on its environmental characteristics and land-use history. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) maps the soil in the project area as Woodbridge fine sandy loam and Canton and Charlton sandy loam, both well-drained soil types.

OSA conducted a walkover and visual assessment of the project area on October 5, 2020. Areas of exposed bedrock were visible in across the proposed new house lot. Testing of the project area with a hand-powered soil probe indicated that project area soils are shallow, with bedrock encountered across the lot at depths ranging from 10-30cm below the ground surface. The very shallow project area soils suggest that there is little potential for intact archaeological sites within the proposed house lot.

Due to the shallow soils and relatively low archaeological sensitivity of the project area, the proposed subdivision and development of the property at 92 Old black Point Road is unlikely to impact buried archaeological resources. Therefore, OSA determined that it is not necessary to conduct an archaeological survey prior to development. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me directly at 860-617-6884.

Sincerely,



Sarah P. Sportman, Ph.D.
Office of State Archaeology