

July 5, 2023

Mr. Gary Goeschel  
Director of Planning  
108 Pennsylvania Ave  
Niantic, CT 06357-1510

CC: Dr. Sarah Holmes, Archaeological Consultant, Kristen Clarke, PE, Shelly Harney

Re: Proposed Nehantic Highlands Subdivision, Holmes Rd & Upper Walnut Hill Rd, East Lyme, CT

Dear Mr. Goeschel:

The Office of State Archaeology (OSA) reviewed the draft technical report for a Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey of the proposed subdivision project at Holmes and Upper Walnut Hill roads in the town of East Lyme, prepared and submitted to OSA by Sarah Holmes, Ph.D. in July 2023. The wooded, 12.4-acre tract will be subdivided into five house lots, with acreage in each parcel set aside as conservation easements and three small parcels along Holmes Road and Upper Walnut Hill Road will be deeded to the East Lyme Land Trust.

The archaeological survey focused on subsurface testing the access roads into each house lot, with a total of 30 subsurface test pits (STPs) placed at 15-meter intervals. The soils throughout the APE contained large cobbles and rock with some disturbed soils identified by the presence of dense undergrowth and uneven surface terrain, likely the result of selective clearing of the property in 2006-2007. The archaeological testing resulted in the recovery of a single artifact, a sherd of relatively modern white glazed earthenware, which was found just below the surface. No evidence of pre-colonial Indigenous cultural materials was recovered and no evidence of historic or pre-colonial archaeological features was encountered. Based on the results of the Phase 1 survey, Dr. Holmes recommended that no additional archaeological testing is necessary.

As the subsurface archaeological investigation did not identify any significant archaeological sites or deposits, OSA concurs with Dr. Holmes's recommendation that no additional archaeological work is merited within the project area, as it is unlikely to yield significant information about the past. The project may proceed as planned.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by phone at 860-617-6884 or by email at [sarah.sportman@uconn.edu](mailto:sarah.sportman@uconn.edu).

Sincerely,



Sarah P. Sportman, Ph.D.  
State Archaeologist