

Paul Lewis
44 Twin Lakes Road
South Salem, NY 10590

Town of Lewisboro Planning Board
P. O. Box 725
Cross River, NY 10518

April 12, 2014

Re: Petrucelli Application on Oscaleta Road, South Salem, NY.

Dear Chair Kerner and Members of the Planning Board:

As an addition to information regarding wildlife on the Petrucelli Lot, I would like to document that at least one obligate species is breeding in the local wetland this spring.

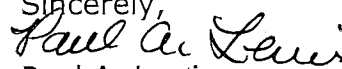
Six years ago I put my life-long interest in frogs to practical use by becoming a qualified NYS DEC Frog Survey enumerator. To become qualified, I passed an exam proving that I could identify all the frogs living in New York State frogs by their calls. Four times each year, I stop at 10 locations on each of two routes in Westchester County, listen for frogs, and submit data to the DEC.

On April 10, 2014, I stopped at the Petrucelli lot, listened, and heard the calls of many Spring Peepers and a Wood Frog. The Wood Frog is of particular interest because it is a vernal pool obligate species, meaning that it only breeds in vernal pools.

Vernal pools fill with water during the fall and winter and generally dry up mid-summer. Since they are contained basins of water, with no stream leading into or out from them, no fish live in them. Several species of amphibians are "obligated" to breed in vernal pools, where their eggs and young will not be eaten by fish. Wood Frogs are among the obligate species. Without going on the property, I cannot tell if other obligate species are there or not.

I have photo documentation the wetland on the Petrucelli lot has been covered by water since at least November of 2013. It was undoubtedly underwater before that date, but I have no photos to document that. Each year, the water in the lot remains as ice all winter and then returns to being the basin of water in which the frogs come to breed.

I also lead vernal pool walks at Muscote Farm, Mt. Lakes Park (both are County Parks), and for Bedford Audubon. I believe the wetland on the Petrucelli lot is in fact a vernal pool since Wood Frogs are breeding in it and it meets the other requirements of the definition.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Lewis