

Soil Classification Determination at Farm Road Homes -- Title V Application



Bob Murchison <bob.murchison@me.com>

To: 'Daryl Beardsley'

Cc: 'Matthew Bevers'; 'Mark Oram'; 'Ellen Hartnett'; 'Jean Greco'; 'Jeanne Guthrie'; 'Jeremy Marsette'; 'Rick Novak'; 'Paul Havery'; 'Desheng Wang'; 'julie.dreyfus@sherbornma.org'

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soil texture triangle.pdf
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Field notes and lab sieving analysis report
Outlook item



Re: Farm Road Homes meeting
Outlook item

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Thu 3/21/2024 6:43 PM

Sherborn BOH,

I am writing to reiterate our position on your repeated incorrect assertions on soil classification for the septic field at Farm Road Homes. Agent Oram has repeatedly said "we must agree to disagree". We will not "agree to disagree".

We now have dispositive lab-based test results that the soil types in the septic area are medium sand and medium loamy sand. There cannot any longer be a dispute on soil classification.

At the time of the original septic field soil testing in 2021, Desheng classified the soil as loamy sand verbally (I personally witnessed it). He documented the soil as loamy sand in his field notes that day. His soil report filed with BOH documented the soil as loamy sand. Health Agent Oram did not object to the soil report classification at the time of the filing.

Desheng and Mark Oram met with peer reviewer Peter Dillon of TetraTech on December 20, 2023. At that time, it was agreed among the three of them to do lab testing to resolve the issue of soil type. See attached email exchange summarizing the meeting.

The testing was conducted on January 3, 2024. The peer reviewer and agent were invited to witness it. Mark Oram was present. The soils were properly taken from approximately five feet depth.

See attached (and screenshot below) soil test results which were transmitted to BOH on January 25, 2024. The two soil tests in the septic field area came back as "medium sand" and "medium loamy sand".

Figure 1: SOIL TEXTURAL TRIANGLE

Table Summary of soil texture analysis based on sieve analysis, 65 Farm Rd, Sherborn, MA

Soil Sample	Location	Sand, silt, and Clay compisition				Soil texture per USDA
		Sand % 0.05-2 mm	Silt % 0.002-0.05mm	Clay % <0.002mm	Total %	
S1	lower edge of SAS	92.53	5.6	1.87	100	medium sand
S2	upper edge of SAS	73.66	24.56	1.78	100	medium loamy sand

Thanks,

Bob Murchison

Fenix Partners Farm Road Development, LLC