

Some questions to ask regarding wetlands permit applications

- Who delineated the wetlands?
- Are they certified? Is their license current or has it lapsed or been suspended? (Call the NH Joint Board - could look at the web site but it may not be up to date)
- How long ago were the wetlands delineated? (If more than a couple years may want to ask to have site redelineated. Or may want surveyor to refresh the flags as many will likely be missing.)
- What standards did they use? (I can provide a list of state and federal standards if they are interested.) Did they follow local zoning regulations/definitions also?
- Is there a certification note on the plan? Does it reference the standards used?
- Is the plan stamped by the scientist?
- Is each copy individually stamped or is this a copy of the stamped original (which are occasionally subject to abuse by manipulation).
- Is there a report that accompanies the delineation / plan?
- Are the individual flag locations and letters/numbers identified on the plan? (Conduct a site walk to review these locations.)
- How were the flags located and plotted on the plan? By GPS (less accurate) or by instrument survey (more accurate - and more important the closer the proposed work or if direct impact is proposed)?
- Are wetlands that are off-site but within 50-feet of the subject and thus encumber the project identified and depicted? (tricky - potential trespass issues)
- Were wetlands delineated with snow on the ground? (Winter delineations deserve a closer look.)
- Is this a natural wetland boundary or a manmade wetland boundary (created by fill or other activity)?
- Was the fill legally permitted? (before 1969 without permits or after 1969 with permits) If no permit it can be considered a violation.
- If they assert that the fill was placed before 1969....Can you provide documentation... such as aerial photographs?