

**ENFORCEMENT REPORT
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BOARD**

Date: April 5, 2024

Location: 28 Four Brooks Road

Owner: Luis Lopez & Maria Garcia

Watershed: Rippowam River

Account: 000-7222

Flood Map: 09001C0506F (6/18/2010)

Flood Zone: X (Area outside .2% annual chance floodplain)

Area: 1.2 acres

Map/Block/Lot: 76/377/A-1R

References

- Images from March 25, 2024 site inspection
- Google Earth Streetview imagery dated June 2023.

Unauthorized Regulated Activities

Clearing vegetation from and filling in wetland/watercourse upland review area.

Property Description

28 Four Brooks Road is developed with a single-family residence, driveway, and accessory building. As shown on the attached GIS aerial image, the property slopes from east to west where a tributary of the Rippowam River flows to the south past the northwest side of the property before crossing the southwest corner of the site. A wooded swamp wetland of varying width borders the brook.

Issues/Discussion/Recommendation

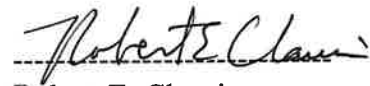
On March 25, 2024, one of the Zoning Enforcement officers reported they had observed a significant amount of fill in proximity to a watercourse while driving on Four Brooks Road. Upon inspection, EPB staff confirmed that the northwest portion of 28 Four Brooks Road had been leveled with fill. No one answered the doorbell at the time of the inspection, so staff returned to the office, where the attached photos taken on site were compared with imagery taken in June 2023 and were found to indicate some trees and other vegetation had also removed or buried as part of this operation.

The Stop Work Order sent to the property owners Luis Lopez and Maria Garcia on March 25th informed them of the violation and instructed them to immediately install erosion controls to prevent sediment from washing off the fill pile and into the wetland and brook. On March 27th, staff spoke with a member of the family on a return visit to the site and gave them a copy of the Stop Work Order. Mr. Lopez called the office the next day and was advised to retain the services of an environmental professional to help him resolve the violation. Staff intends to send a formal Cease and Desist Order to Mr. Lopez and Ms. Garcia within ten days of the Show Cause Hearing that will be included on the April 18th EPB meeting agenda.

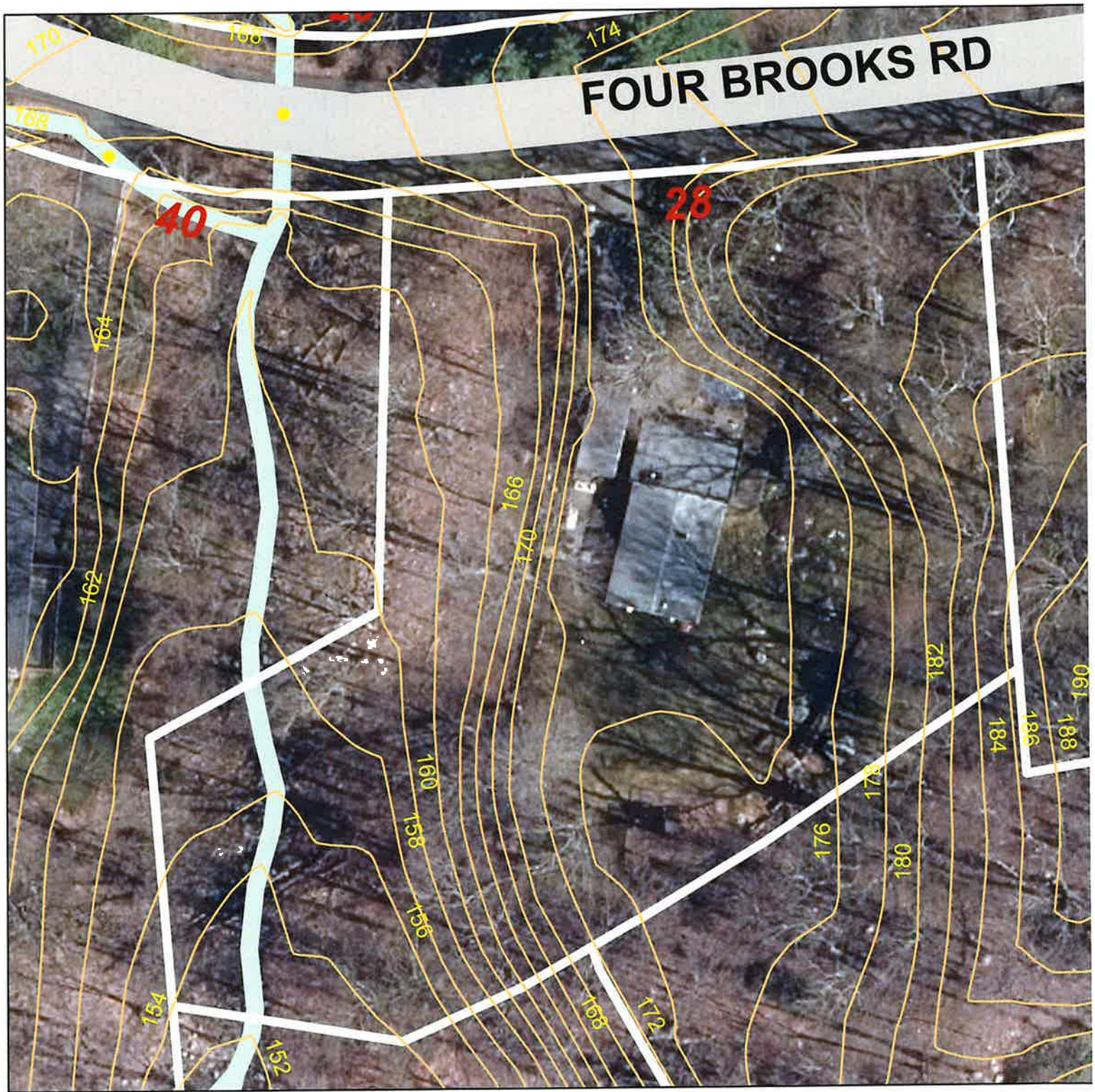
Important facts for the environmental consultant to establish are whether clearing and fill extended into the wetland along northwest side of property and if these activities extended into the probable wetland in the southwest corner of the site. This will require delineation of the wetlands. Staff would also like to know who conducted the clearing and filling if these were not done by the owner so the Board can determine if they should be assessed penalties.

Staff recommends the Board maintain the Cease and Desist Order, affirm staff's recommendation that the owner retain the services of a qualified environmental professional to assess the situation and develop a plan to remove the fill and restore vegetation in affected wetland and upland review areas, and require submission of the restoration plan no later than June 14, 2024. Staff also recommends the Board authorize the filing of a Notice of Violation on the Land Records if the deadline for submission of the restoration plan is not met.

In the meantime, erosion controls must be maintained until the site has been mitigated and stabilized.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Clausi", written over a horizontal line.

Robert E. Clausi



28 Four Brooks Road 2019

The information displayed on this map is for general reference only.
The data is not survey accurate. The City of Stamford assumes no legal
responsibility for the information contained herein.
Map printed 4/5/2024, City of Stamford.

0 20 40 80 Feet



28 Four Brooks Road photos taken March 25, 2024



28 Four Brooks Road

#1

Imagery date 6/2023

Legend



Google Earth

© 2024 Google

3.04 ft



28 Four Brooks Road

Imagery date: 6/2023

#2

Legend

28 Four Brooks Rd



28 Four Brooks Road

Imagery date: 6/2023

#3

Legend

 28 Four Brooks Rd

Google Earth

© 2024 Google

3.74 ft

