

Linda,

I surveyed the pond yesterday, using polarized glasses for optimum viewing. I observed two (2) spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) egg masses, plus a small number of spermatophores (presumably also from spotted salamanders), but no other evidence of breeding by vernal pool "obligate" species (photos attached). The maximum depth of the pond was approximately 45". I did not observe any fish, but the pond appears deep enough and may be permanently flooded, which would allow it to support fish. Based on my observations, the pond did not contain the necessary "biological" evidence (five or more egg masses) - despite the presence of spermatophores - to be certified as a vernal pool in accordance with the "Guidelines for the Certification of Vernal Pool Habitat." (NHESP, March 2009). A follow-up survey in the next 1-2 weeks would provide more certainty of whether additional egg masses were present but not detected by my survey.

Regarding the outlet to the pond, the Guidelines state that a pool must have "no permanently flowing outlet." The outlet was flowing during my survey, however if this outlet dries up during the year then the pond would meet the required "physical" criteria as a vernal pool.

-Dan



Photo 1 - Spotted salamander egg mass (1 of 2 observed).



Photo 2 - Spotted salamander egg mass (2 of 2 observed).

Dan Wells, Goddard Consulting, LLC
Photos Taken 4/10/19 - Pond at 412 Commonwealth Road, Wayland



Photo 3 - Spotted salamander spermatophores.