



City of Cambridge
Department of Public Works
Planning and Zoning Division
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Planning and Zoning
Staff Report
August 4, 2020

I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

P & Z Case No.: P&Z TA # 2021-006

II. NATURE OF THE REQUEST: To amend section §9.2 to define ditches.

DISCUSSION: The current UDC defines intermittent and perennial streams but does not define ditches. The current U.S.G.S. map is used to determine intermittent and perennial streams. It appears that this map also may indicate ditches with a blue line. Ditches are man-made depressions used for irrigation, directing water from low lying areas and drainage. These water features differ from intermittent and perennial streams in that they are man-made and should not be considered similar in nature to jurisdictional waters that are regulated by the Clean Water Act. There should be flexibility for these features. They should be allowed to be relocated or abandoned with the proper agency review.

Please see attached.

Ditch - A ditch is a small to moderate divot created to channel water. A ditch can be used for drainage, to drain water from low-lying areas, alongside roadways or fields, or to channel water from a more distant source for plant irrigation. A ditch may appear on the U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quadrangle published by the United States, the Dorchester County Soil Survey or field located. Ditches may be abandoned or relocated with the review and approval by Maryland Department of Environment and Dorchester County Soil Conservation District.