

June 18, 2024

Franklin Conservation Commission
355 East Central St
Franklin, MA 02038

Re: Veterans Memorial Drive Extension
MassDEP # 159-1292
Notice of Intent Peer Review Response

Dear Conservation Commission,

This letter is in direct response to comments mentioned in BETA's peer review letter dated June 7, 2024. Goddard Consulting (GC) is responding to comments W2, W3, W4 and W6 while Guerriere & Halnon (G&H) will respond (under a separate cover) to all other comments.

BETA Peer Review Comment		Goddard's Response
W2	1. BETA requests that 12-inch composite filter tubes be used for erosion control instead of haybales, silt fence or mulch socks.	1. GC and G&H has changed the erosion control devices to 12-inch composite filter tubes.
W3	1. BETA requests that replication protocol and schedule be shown on plans as well as ground water elevation and cross sections of altered and proposed wetland areas.	1. The Wetland mitigation report by GC, provided in the NOI, has the replication protocol and schedule. This information will also be put on corresponding NOI plans by G&H. G&H will also put ground water elevations/hydric soil indicator depths and cross sections of the altered and proposed wetland areas on the plans. Soil profiles and depth to hydric soils are provided as an attachment herein.
W4	1. BETA suggests that the plants to be saved and re-used from the impact wetland area for the wetland replacement area be flagged in the field and used in addition to the proposed plantings.	1. The impact wetland area is sparsely vegetated with 2 large red oaks and several small, sweet pepperbushes. GC flagged 5 Sweet Pepperbush shrubs with blue ribbon which are labeled "save". These will be saved and added to the wetland replacement area in addition to that which is proposed to be planted. The attached wetland replication report has been updated with this information.
W6	1. BETA suggested that any red maple trees and sweet pepperbush shrubs within the existing wetland replication area be saved. Red Maple trees will be saved utilizing hummocks and the re-usable sweet pepperbush shrubs saved for later use.	1. GC flagged the wetland trees within the proposed wetland replacement area to remain on hummocks. Trees were flagged with blue ribbon which says "save". These include trees within and directly adjacent to the replacement area and consist of: Two 4-6" dbh red maples, three 10-14" dbh red maples, one 4 trunk red maple and one 6-10" dbh tupelo. Sweet pepperbush shrubs will be dug up with special consideration to keep root ball intact with the hope of re-using within the replacement area.

Please refer to updated Mitigation Planting Plan and soil profiles attached.

Sincerely,
Goddard Consulting, LLC.



Nicole Hayes, PWS
Senior Wetland Scientist