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February 15, 2023

Patrick Gallagher, Chairman
Franklin Conservation Commission
355 East Central Street
Franklin, MA 02038

Re: Notice of Intent – Responses to Peer Review
DEP File #159-1259
74 South Street
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038

Dear Chairman Gallagher and Commissioners:

On behalf of the Applicants, Matthew and Sarah Moore, McArthur Environmental Consulting, LLC is submitting responses to the peer review by BETA of the Notice of Intent which was filed on October 25, 2022 for work proposed at 74 South Street in Franklin, Massachusetts.

Proposed work within the 100-foot buffer zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland includes the removal and disposal of woody debris stockpiles, the removal of 5 trees within the 100-foot buffer zone, the construction of a 3,120 sf barn, and the installation of a drywell to capture clean rooftop runoff from the new barn. A revised site plan is included with this submittal.

Below are comments from BETA with responses below each, in italics.

W1. Add a note on the plans indicating how the site will be restored if heavy machinery is required to assist with the existing debris removal or proposed tree removal within the buffer zone.

The revised plans now states, "Upon completion of construction, bare soils within the project limits shall be stabilized with a conservation seed mix."

W2. Indicate the location of laydown or stockpile areas on the Project plan for use during construction of the barn. These areas should be cited outside of the buffer zone to BVW.

No soil will be stockpiled within the 100-foot buffer zone. Soil is proposed to be brought in during grading to accommodate the slope at the back of the proposed barn.

W3. Provide confirmation that the "optional extension" of the driveway as labeled on the Project plan would consist of gravel as described in the project narrative. The Plan should be updated to indicate this.

The Applicant has removed the extension of the driveway outside of the barn. The drive down to the barn is proposed to be gravel. The revised plan reflects this change.

W4. Approximately 1,200 cubic yards of fill will be required for construction of the proposed barn. The Applicant should depict the proposed topography on the plans and the plan should note method of long-term stabilization (i.e. The “Conservation Seed Mix”). In addition, the Applicant should indicate the type of fill proposed and confirm that only clean fill will be used.

Approximately 1,200 cubic yards of clean fill shall be brought in to raise the elevation at the back of the proposed barn. Upon completion of construction, the site shall be stabilized with a Conservation Seed Mix. This is shown on the revised plan.

W5. A detail for the cistern and plan showing how water will flow to the cistern should be included on the plans.

A cistern is no longer planned to be installed at the site. Instead, a Cultech system shall be installed northeast of the proposed barn. It will collect clean rooftop runoff from the barn and infiltrate it into the ground. The new system has been sized to hold 261 cf of storage which will accommodate the runoff from the new barn during a 1-inch storm event.

W6. A method of interim soil stabilization, such as straw mulch, should be provided to cover exposed soils within cleared areas of the buffer zone until permanent stabilization with seed mix can be completed. The Applicant should also provide a schedule for permanent stabilization.

Straw mulch shall be spread over bare soil until the site is stabilized with conservation seed mix.

W7. The Plan should depict the location of the existing erosion control barriers.

The revised plan shows the locations of the erosion and sediment control barriers.

W8. The project narrative indicates use of a conservation seed mix to stabilize cleared areas within 100 feet of the BVW. Specifications of the proposed conservation seed mix should be provided.

*The bare soils within the project limits shall be loamed and seeded with a conservation seed mix consisting of the following or similar species: Virginia Wild Rye (*Elymus virginicus*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Red Fescue (*Festuca rubra*), Switch Grass (*Panicum virgatum*), Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*), Panicleleaf Tick Trefoil (*Desmodium paniculatum*), Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*), Butterfly Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), Black Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Common Sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), Heath Aster (*Aster pilosus/Symphotrichum pilosum*), Early Goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*), Upland Bentgrass (*Agrostis perennans*).*

W9. Indicate the anticipated use of the cleared buffer zone area within the 50-100 foot buffer zone, specifically whether this area will be maintained as a lawn or naturalized using the seed mix discussed in W8.

Areas within the buffer zone will be planted (naturalized) with herbaceous vegetation as indicated above. There are no plans to create a formal lawn in this area.

We look forward to presenting this information at the next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission hearing on February 23, 2023 and hope that this information is sufficient for the Commission to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions.

Sincerely,



Susan McArthur, Wetland Scientist
McArthur Environmental Consulting, LLC

cc: Matthew and Sarah Moore, Applicants/Homeowners

Attachment: Revised Site Plan