



TOWN OF FRANKLIN

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Franklin Municipal Building
257 Fisher Street
Franklin, MA 02038-3026

April 3, 2024

Ms. Breeka Li Goodlander, Conservation Agent
Members of the Franklin Conservation Commission
355 East Central Street
Franklin, MA 02038

Re: Beaver Pond Hydro-Raking – Peer Review Comments Amendment

Dear Conservation Commission Members:

On behalf of the Recreation Department, the Department of Public Works (DPW) is filing this Notice of Intent with the Conservation Commission for the hydro-raking of Beaver Pond at Chilson Park on Beaver Street in Franklin. The NOI was discussed at the March 7, 2024 meeting and continued to the April 4, 2024 meeting as the MassDEP file number was not issued in time and more time was needed to respond to the peer review comments.

Below are the March 19, 2024 comments from BETA's peer review with responses identified in red:

Plan and General Comments

A1. MassDEP has not issued a file number as of this writing.

A file number has still not been issued.

A2. The plan should be revised to include a note stating the source(s) and date(s) of the wetland delineation.

The source and date of the wetland delineation has been added.

A3. The following elements are missing from the provided plans:

- a. The source and date of the topography on the plans should be stated (Bylaw Regulations Section 7.18.1.4).*

The source is listed, a date has been added.

- b. *The Plans should be stamped by a Professional Land Surveyor registered in the state of Massachusetts. BETA defers to the Commission on this requirement given the nature/scope of the Project.*

The basemap was derived from Town of Franklin GIS data. This site was not surveyed so cannot be stamped by a PLS.

- c. *An Assessors Reference for the parcel of land on which the Project will occur should be provided on the plans.*

The parcel number was added to the plan.

- d. *The abutting properties Assessors' Reference should be provided on the plans.*

No abutting properties are shown on the plan.

Construction Comments

W1. If stockpiles are left onsite for more than 24-hours, the location of the stockpiles should be moved outside of the 25-foot Buffer Zone and BLSF. A secondary stockpile location should be identified on the plans.

DPW will be handling the removal of material from the beach. They will remove these piles daily and/or move to a secondary on-site dewatering area outside of the 25-foot buffer zone and BLSF. These stockpiles are shown on the plans on both sides of the beach.

W2. The Applicant should clarify how material will get from the pond to the stockpile area, as it appears that equipment will be required to transport it given the distance from the Pond Bank.

The DPW uses a loader/backhoe to remove material placed at the beach shoreline from the hydro-rake, and will place it into a dump truck for off-site composting. This is always done within 24 hours.

W3. Hydro-raking will generate turbidity that can impact the water column outside of the work area. It is recommended that a turbidity curtain be required along the extents of the dredge area and remain in place until sediment settles out of the water column.

Solitude will contain turbidity and floating debris within the hydro-rake management area with a turbidity / fragment curtain.

Mitigation Comments

W4. Within the Draft Construction Sequence on the provided plan, the Applicant states that restoration/stabilization will occur. The Applicant should specify exactly what type of restoration/stabilization is being proposed. Based on the proposed work, there appears to be minimal risk of exposed soils.

The material is placed on the beach sand area. There is no exposure to bank erosion, since the sand grade is gradual from the shore into the water column. The sand also provides good drainage to dewater the material. If any disturbance were to occur, the disturbed area would be returned to initial condition.

W5. The Commission should consider including a Special Condition in the Order of Conditions requiring the contractor to clean all machinery used as part of the Project and provide a signed statement indicating the date and method of cleaning, to ensure that there is no spread of invasive species.

Solitude follows equipment decontamination protocol between each waterbody. If requested, Solitude will complete a Decontamination Certification to document the decontamination process. The form they typically use is completed for any MA DCR or MWRA waterbody.

WPA Performance Standard Comments

W6. The NOI is missing the required narratives addressing the Project's compliance with the LUW Performance Standards and the applicability of the Ecological Restoration Limited Project provisions to the Project. The Applicant should revise the NOI to include this information for the Commission's review.

The project does not involve removing, filling, dredging, or altering of Land under Water Bodies. Hydro-raking has been performed every few years in Beaver Pond since the 1980's. The site is not located within a natural heritage program estimated or priority habitat area.

W7. The WPA Form 3 indicates that work within LUW will not involve dredging. BETA has been informed by MassDEP on similar projects that hydro-raking does constitute dredging, as there is no method to completely avoid removal of sediment from the substrate when disposing of the harvested vegetation. Dredge volumes should be provided as part of the NOI application.

The proposed area to be hydro-raked is 26,722 square feet. Assuming that an average depth of 1-inch of sediment remains attached to the root system over the entire area to be raked, that would result in a volume of 82.5 cubic yards of material, which is less than the 100 cubic yard requirement that would trigger an individual 401 Water Quality Certification filing.

Should the volume of dredged sediment exceed 100 cubic yards, an individual 401 Water Quality Certification from MassDEP will be required. The requirement for a state permit would create Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) jurisdiction over the Project, and it is anticipated that the areal extent of LUW impacts would exceed a MEPA threshold, requiring the submission of an Environmental Notification Form at a minimum.

See response to comment W7.

Bylaw Regulatory Comments

W8. BETA defers to the Commission on the approval of the project narrative, as the narrative does not provide specific Bylaw requirements including who is performing the work, when the proposed activity will be completed, and what measures will be used to mitigate any impacts to the functions and characteristics of the Resource Area (Bylaw Regulations Section 7.9.1).

Solitude Lake Management will be performing the work with an anticipated schedule of finishing in spring, before June 20, 2024. See Functions and Characteristics Statement in Section D of the NOI submittal for any notes on mitigation.

Stormwater Management

The Project is subject to the Massachusetts Stormwater Management Regulations and Standards; however, it is not anticipated to have any measurable effect on stormwater runoff patterns and it will not involve any development activities. It is recommended that the Applicant provided a stamped and signed Stormwater Checklist to meet MassDEP filing requirements and a brief narrative documenting which Standards apply and do not apply to the Project.

Since work is strictly related to hydro-raking (the removal of aquatic invasive species with a floating barge) we feel this would be unnecessary. This project is not a development project and will have no effect on stormwater runoff or the existing stormwater management system.

If you require additional information, please contact this office at 508-553-5500.

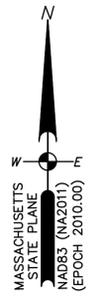
Sincerely,



Brooke Morganelli, P.E.
Assistant Town Engineer

Attachments: Amended plan dated March 29, 2024.

S:\DPW_Engineering\Projects\Beaver Sl\2024 Beaver Pond Hydro Raking NOI\Plans\REV 1 Chilson Beach Hydro Raking Plan.dwg Apr 02, 2024, 12:02pm



Parcel 288-002-000-000

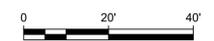
PROP. AREA TO BE HYDRO-RAKED (LIMIT OF DISTURBANCE)

PROP. STOCKPILE AREA EROSION CONTROL BARRIER, AS SPECIFIED

PROP. STOCKPILE AREA EROSION CONTROL BARRIER, AS SPECIFIED

EXIST. BOAT LAUNCH PROPOSED HYDRO-RAKE EQUIPMENT ENTRY

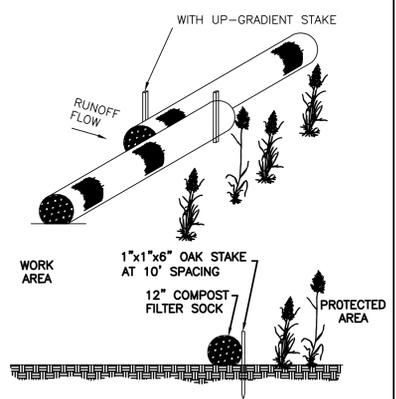
BEAVER POND



BASEMAP DERIVED FROM CURRENT TOWN OF FRANKLIN GIS

DRAFT CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE

1. Notify Conservation Commission prior to start of work.
2. Hydro-rake boat placed into water via the boat launch.
3. Hydro-raking activities commence in Beaver Pond.
4. Material is deposited on-shore and then removed by Franklin Highway Department for off-site disposal, within 24 hours of completion.
5. Perform site restoration/stabilization.
6. Notify Conservation Commission of completion of work.



NOTES:

1. 100% BIODEGRADABLE BURLAP SOCK FILLED WITH WEED & WEED-SEED FREE COMPOST.
2. EMBED STAKES MINIMUM OF 12" DEEP ON DOWN-GRADIENT SIDE OF FILTER SOCK.
3. MINIMUM 24" OVERLAP AT JOINTS.
4. SILT SHALL BE REMOVED WHEN 1/3RD OF VERTICAL HEIGHT IS OBSTRUCTED.
5. FOR WORK AREAS NOT ACCESSIBLE BY TRUCK, USE ALTERNATIVE METHOD WHICH CAN BE CARRIED BY HAND.

EROSION CONTROL BARRIER DETAIL
NOT TO SCALE

Note: Wetland flags identifying resource areas were placed and located by CDM Smith in February 2017. These flags were previously confirmed by an RDA for the "Beaver Pond Recreation Area Field Renovation Project" in March of 2017.



ENGINEERING DIVISION
TOWN OF FRANKLIN
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BEAVER POND
HYDRO-RAKING

PROJECT MANAGER	DATE	REVISED	SHEET
BLM	2/6/24	3/29/24	1
DESIGNER	DRAWN BY	REVISED BY	OF
BLM	BLM	BLM	1