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July 14, 2020

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Newburyport Conservation Commission
City Hall
60 Pleasant Street, 1st Floor
Newburyport, MA 01950

Attn: Ms. Julia Godtfredsen, Conservation Administrator
Phone: (978) 465-4400 ext. 6
jgodtfredsen@cityofnewburyport.com

**RE: Supplemental Information | Request for
Determination of Applicability | Drainage Swale
Clearing**

7 Opportunity Way | Newburyport, MA

Dear Ms. Godtfredsen and Members of the Commission,

A Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) Application for the clean out of an existing drainage swale was filed on June 18, 2020 with the Newburyport Conservation Commission. Our firm was authorized by Jim Laverdiere, owner of property at 7 Opportunity Way, in Newburyport, MA, known as assessor's map 82A, parcel 18, to prepare the following letter to provide supplemental information regarding the proposed project based on commission comments from the July 7, 2020 public meeting.

Executive Summary

Jim Laverdiere seeks a Negative Determination of Applicability for the maintenance of the drainage swale at 7 Opportunity Way.

The purpose of this letter intends to:

1. Provide updated plans (attached) that include erosion control measures and dewatering areas
2. Provide details on the proposed cutting and removal of Phragmites
3. Provide details on the proposed excavation and removal of accumulated debris, soils and roots to the elevation of the outlet invert under the roadway
4. Provide an anticipated construction sequence

Cutting and Removal of Phragmites

The standing stalks of Phragmites will be cut with string cutters and stockpiled for disposal to a local composting facility (Chickadee Hill in Rowley, or equal). The Phragmites will be cut to a height of approximately 12 to 15 inches. The plants will be cut before they go to seed in order not to transport viable seeds to the composting operation.

Excavation and Removal of Accumulated Debris, Soils and Roots

A backhoe or small excavator will be used to harvest the material from the drainage swale and stockpile behind a staked line of salt marsh hay or equal to be allowed to dewater prior to offsite disposal at an acceptable location. The excavation will be limited to debris and sediment that has accumulated up to the invert elevation of the existing culvert beneath Opportunity Way.

Construction Sequence

1. Standing Phragmites to be cut, stacked and removed for offsite composting.
2. Drainage Swale to be excavated of accumulated debris up to the invert elevation of the discharge culvert beneath Opportunity Way.
3. Excavated material to be dewatered prior to offsite disposal.
4. Post Construction letter to be submitted to the Conservation Commission upon completion.

Summary

It is in our firm's professional opinion that the supplemental information provided in this letter meets the requests of the Newburyport Conservation Commission. We request that the Commission vote to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability so that Jim Laverdiere may commence with the proposed project.

We are available to meet with you on site to review the project and to answer any questions, if you desire. Should you have any questions, or, would like to arrange a site walk, please call any time at (978) 948-7717.

Respectfully submitted,

DeRosa Environmental Consulting, Inc.



Evin Guvendiren
Natural Resource Economist
MJD/eeg

Attachments:

1. Revised Figure 2: Project Elements Plan



Michael J. DeRosa, Principal
PWS, LSP, LEED AP



Figure 2. Project Elements Plan 7 Opportunity Way, Newburyport, MA

MJD/EEG
June 17, 2020
Rev. July 14, 2020

Off load area for excavated debris to dewater prior to offsite removal.

Approximate limits of Phragmites stand to be cut and managed.

Erosion control to consist of staked salt marsh hay bales.

Approximate centerline of drainage swale



Notes:

1. Drainage swale is overwhelmed with Phragmites and unable to drain properly.
2. Phragmites to be cut and composted before going to flower in the fall.
3. Subsequent plantings of native species adapted to wet conditions will be installed to re-occupy the area and improve the function of the drainage swale.
4. All work to be overseen by a wetland specialist.
5. Construction Sequence:
 - a. Standing Phragmites to be cut and removed for offsite composting.
 - b. Drainage Swale to be excavated of accumulated debris up to the invert elevation of the discharge culvert.
 - c. Material to be dewatered prior to off site disposal.
6. Post Construction letter to be submitted to the Conservation Commission upon completion.