



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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September 7, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME : T.G.I. Friday's
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Taunton
PROJECT WATERSHED : Taunton River
EOEA NUMBER : 13856
PROJECT PROPONENT : Stan DeMille, T.G.I Friday's, Carlson Restaurants
Worldwide
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : August 8, 2006

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I hereby determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project involves the development of a 5,520 square foot (sq. ft.) restaurant and parking area on 4.7 +/- acres of undeveloped land at the corner of Mozzone Boulevard and Route 140. The site contains bordering vegetated wetland (BVW) of 1.87 acres or 40% of the total lot area. The rest of the site consists of an unused detention basin and young second growth shrub and upland woods which resulted from clearing the land 15 years ago. The project proposes a permanent pond/marsh complex on the Route 140 side of the site which will serve as a permanent view corridor. The wetland alteration for the parking area is 5,770 square feet. The remainder of the wetland alteration is for pond excavation and conversion of wooded swamp to marsh for the view corridor from Route 140. The wetland to be converted to pond is 7,950 sq. ft., so the total wetland requiring replication is 15,520 sq. ft.

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03 (3)(b)1.d. of the MEPA regulations, because the project requires a Section 401 Water Quality Certificate from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and results in the alteration of more than 5,000 square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands. The project will require an Order of Conditions under the Wetlands Protection Act from the Taunton Conservation Commission because the loss of greater than 5,000 square feet of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands is proposed. The project construction activities will disturb one or more acres of land and therefore, may require a NPDES Stormwater Permit for Construction Activities. In this case, MEPA jurisdiction extends to issues of land alteration and wetlands/water quality.

The DEP Water Quality Certification will include a requirement to study alternatives to the project. DEP has stated in its comment letter that the alternatives analysis submitted in the ENF is not adequate to address alternatives for the Water Quality Certification. I anticipate that the DEP review will lead to requirements for a minimum of 1:1 wetland replication and also alternatives to avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands such as reducing the fill, creating the pond only in uplands, or selective vista pruning of the existing areas for better views. During the permitting process, the proponent should also provide additional information on erosion and sedimentation control and the consistency of the project with the DEP Stormwater Management Guidelines.

I conclude that no further MEPA review is required. The proponent can resolve any outstanding issues during the DEP permitting process.

September 7, 2006

Date


Robert W. Golledge, Jr.

Comments received:

08/25/06 Department of Environmental Protection SERO

RWG/ACC/acc