

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental
Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF Environmental
Notification Form

<i>For Office Use Only</i> <i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	<u>13453</u>
MEPA Analyst:	<u>Brian Angus</u>
Phone:	617-626- <u>1029</u>

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Ashby Free Public Library		
Street: Main Street		
Municipality: Ashby	Watershed: Nashua	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: 42° 40' 36.9"N Longitude: 71° 49' 10.2" W	
Estimated commencement date: 06/05	Estimated completion date: 06/06	
Approximate cost: \$2,000,000	Status of project design: 80 %complete	
Proponent: Galante Architecture Studio for The Ashby Free Public Library		
Street: 56 JFK Street		
Municipality: Cambridge	State: MA	Zip Code: 02138
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Bucky N. Conner		
Firm/Agency: Goldsmith, Prest and Ringwall, Inc	Street: 39 Main Street, Suite 301	
Municipality: Ayer	State: MA	Zip Code: 01432
Phone: 978.772.1590	Fax: 978.772.1591	E-mail: bconner@gpr-inc.com

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
 Yes No

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
 Yes (EOEA No. _____) No

Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:
 a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8)) Yes No
 a Special Review Procedure? (see 301 CMR 11.09) Yes No
 a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No
 a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11) Yes No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres):
2004: Mass. Board of Library Comm. Grant \$1,404,117.00

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify: DEP, Ashby B.O.H. & Con. Com.) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Order of Conditions, 401 WQC, SSDS Permit

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:
Total site acreage	2.86±			
New acres of land altered		1.14±		
Acres of impervious area	0.061±	0.319	0.38±	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		13,000±		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		N/A		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		N/A		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	4,000±	8,000±	12,000±	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	38±	0	38±	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	50 maximum	+ 50	100 maximum	
Parking spaces	2±	+10	12±	
WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	500± maximum	0	500± maximum	
GPD water withdrawal	500±	0	500±	
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	500± maximum	0	500± maximum	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

Yes (Specify _____) No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

Yes (Specify _____) No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

Yes (Specify: _____) No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

Yes (Specify: The Ashby Free Public Library (ASY-38) within Historic District B) No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

Yes (Specify _____) No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

Yes (Specify: _____) No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include (a) a description of the project site, (b) a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and (c) potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (You may attach one additional page, if necessary.) See attached Project Description

LAND SECTION – all proponents must fill out this section

I. Thresholds / Permits

A. Does the project meet or exceed any review thresholds related to land (see 301 CMR 11.03(1))
___ Yes X No; if yes, specify each threshold:

II. Impacts and Permits

A. Describe, in acres, the current and proposed character of the project site, as follows:

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Total</u>
Footprint of buildings	<u>2,000±</u>	<u>4,000±</u>	<u>6,000 SF</u>
Roadways, parking, and other paved areas	<u>692 SF</u>	<u>9,592±</u>	<u>10,284 SF</u>
Other altered areas (describe)	--	--	--
Undeveloped areas	<u>2.79 acres</u>	<u>-0.31 acres</u>	<u>2.48 acres</u>

B. Has any part of the project site been in active agricultural use in the last three years?
___ Yes X No; if yes, how many acres of land in agricultural use (with agricultural soils) will be converted to nonagricultural use?

C. Is any part of the project site currently or proposed to be in active forestry use?
___ Yes X No; if yes, please describe current and proposed forestry activities and indicate whether any part of the site is the subject of a DEM-approved forest management plan:

D. Does any part of the project involve conversion of land held for natural resources purposes in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97? ___ Yes X No; if yes, describe:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
to accompany
Environmental Notification Form
Ashby Free Public Library, 812 Main Street, Ashby, MA

GENERAL

The purpose of this project is an addition to the Town of Ashby Free Public Library. Associated with the addition is the site preparation, access drive, parking, utilities, grading, drainage and landscaping for the site. Work will include construction of the addition, site preparation, construction of the detention basins, septic system, parking lot, utilities, and landscaping within the 100-foot wetland buffer zone and portions within the 200-foot riverfront area. Also associated with this project is the Limited Project access drive reviewable under 310 CMR 10.53(3)(e) within the Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW).

The site consists of 2.86± acres (124,450± SF) on the south side of Main Street (Route 119), east of South Road. The area of disturbance varies in slope from 5-25% and consists primarily of grasses and underbrush with only a few mature trees. The disturbed area includes BVW and its associated buffer zone, a portion of the 200-foot riverfront area and a small grassed upland area. Two small ponds and a stream are located on site; all will remain undisturbed throughout construction.

JURISDICTION

Bank (310 CMR 10.54)

Work will remain 45 feet from the edge of the westernmost pond and 8 feet from the edge of the easternmost pond as delineated 10/26/2004.

Bordering Vegetated Wetland (310 CMR 10.55)

The resource area consists of a corridor of BVW, which follows the discharge of a culvert along natural drainage channels. The demarcation of this BVW was established by B & C Associates and survey located by Goldsmith, Prest and Ringwall, Inc.

The access drive extends 250 feet from the road to the parking lot. This necessitates a wetland crossing that will fill roughly 6,500± SF of the 73,600± SF of BVW on site, which constitutes a Limited Project reviewable under 310 CMR 10.53 (3) (e). This area along with an additional 500± SF of ripped pipe end will be replicated on site. See the following Limited Project (310 CMR 10.53 (3)(e) for details of the proposed access drive.

Also, as a product of site grading, drainage, stormwater, landscaping and the maintenance of a hydraulic connection, an additional 6,000± SF of BVW will be disturbed. This disturbance occurs adjacent to the cut/fill associated with the limited project access drive and associated with the well construction. All areas of disturbance associated with this portion of the development will be restored in place.

This project is expected to have a permanent impact on some wetland resources due to a narrow drive access over wetland areas. This impact will be mitigated by wetland replication and restoration on site. All areas of disturbance, restoration and replication will be bounded and protected with silt fence during construction and until vegetation has stabilized. After backfilling, the area will be seeded with New England Wetmix (restoration and replication areas) and New England Erosion Control/Restoration Mix (detention areas), stabilized, and allowed to return to wetlands via natural succession. The seed mix to be of herbaceous vegetation, as specified by New England Wetland Plants, Inc. of Amherst, MA.

The construction will alter approximately 33,200± SF of the 39,750± SF of 100-foot wetland buffer zone on site. The proposed alteration consists of the building addition and associated parking, utilities, grading, drainage, landscaping, septic system and replication.

Limited Project (310 CMR 10.53 (3) (e))

Because the access drive, being of minimal legal and practical width acceptable to the Ashby Highway Department, fills in excess of 5,000 SF of BVW, this portion of the project qualifies as a Limited Project. The access drive is designed to maintain a hydraulic connection that will not restrict flow and all filled area will be replicated as previously discussed.

In order to prove to the Conservation Commission, the DEP, MEPA, our client, and ourselves that this Limited Project is the only viable option for access, all reasonable alternative means of access from any public way, Main Street and South Street, to the upland area where the building is located were explored. Access through the cemetery was also considered.

From Main Street:

Due to the proximity of the existing structures on Main Street the only avenue available for access to the Library is between the existing Library and the existing dwelling to the west. Access at this point would involve constructing a portion of the drive and grading on the abutter's property and relocating the soil absorption area that services the dwelling. The abutter's parcel is 9,000± SF with a moderate slope at 10%-20% which makes the relocation of the soil absorption area and the grading for a 12%, maximum slope, access drive impossible without razing the dwelling. Additionally, the Ashby Police Chief has serious public safety concerns if a drive connecting to Main Street were built near New Ipswich Road.

From South Street:

South Street access of minimal legal and practical width acceptable to the Ashby Highway Department within the parcel owned by the Town of Ashby is the proposed access. The only access from South Street that may potentially decrease the disturbance of BVW is via the abutting property to the south. The owner of this property has been adamant that this option is unacceptable. Even if access across the abutter's property were possible, the amount of BVW filled would exceed 5,000 SF.

From Town Cemetery:

Access from the cemetery would require a long, non-direct vehicular routing through the cemetery property to reach the library site. From this point, a large area of wetlands would have to be crossed – likely increasing the amount of fill in the wetlands for the drive. Further, a perennial stream would have to be crossed, significantly increasing the

complexity and cost of the drive. The South Road access is the only viable vehicular access.

Land Under water Bodies and Waterways (310 CMR 10.56)

No work will take place within any Land Under Water Bodies or Waterways.

Land Subject to Flooding (310 CMR 10.57)

No work will take place within any Land Subject to Flooding.

Riverfront Area (310 CMR 10.58)

The proposed construction will alter approximately 8,656± SF of the 66,570 ± SF of riverfront area on site. Of this area 4,875± SF will be temporary disturbance while 3,775± SF will be permanently altered in association with the stormwater management facility.

Under DEP guidelines 310 CMR 10.58 (4)(d)1.d. the calculation of footage of alteration within the riverfront shall exclude areas of replication, restoration and areas used for structural stormwater management measures. Because the majority of work proposed within the riverfront is associated with these measures, under DEP guidelines the proposed construction will alter only 1,000± SF of the 66,570 ± SF of riverfront area on site.

Disturbance will remain 125± feet from the river, except for the well installation which will be 35± feet from the river. The alteration includes 450± SF of grading associated with proposed Soil Absorption Area. The proposed well and the trenching required for its electric service and waterline will also disturb 550± SF within the Riverfront. Construction proposes the alteration of approximately 650± SF with 200-feet of the river and approximately 350± SF within 100-feet of the river.

No reasonable alternatives to the proposed construction within the riverfront area have a less significant impact on resource areas due to the lot size, irregular shape, on-site sewage disposal system, and number of resource areas on site.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The development meets the MDEP Stormwater Management Standards through the employment of Best Management Practices that address groundwater recharge and suspended solids removal through the duration of the 100 year storm. See the attached Stormwater Management Project Report for details of the entire proposed development.

CONCLUSION

These activities, when completed in conjunction with the proper use of erosion and sediment controls will serve to protect resource areas on and off site. All products of erosion retained by the erosion controls will be promptly removed to a non-sensitive upland area. The project as a whole represents substantial conformance with the Massachusetts DEP Wetlands Protection Act (310 CMR 10.00)