



FUSS & O'NEILL

May 30, 2019

Notification for Submission of Notice of Intent, Ecological Restoration Limited
Project: Christmas Brook Stream Restoration

Expected NOI Submission Date: Mid-June 2019

Municipality where Proposed Project is located: Williamstown

Location of Proposed Project: On the Williams College Campus, along the open channel segment of Christmas Brook downstream of the Taconic Golf Course and upstream of Latham Street.

Project Description: Williams College is proposing a stream and floodplain restoration project along the open channel segment of Christmas Brook downstream of the Taconic Golf Course and upstream of Latham Street. A Notice of Intent (NOI) for an Ecological Restoration Limited Project (WPA Form A and Appendix A: Ecological Restoration Limited Project Checklists) will be submitted to the Town of Williamstown Conservation Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Bureau of Resource Protection in mid-June 2019. Once filed, copies of the NOI application will be available for review at the Williamstown Town Hall. A public hearing for the project is expected to be scheduled in late June.

Key elements of the proposed restoration will include:

- Removal of legacy anthropogenic debris throughout the site and associated restoration and stabilization, including removal of a remnant concrete foundation and chain link fencing.
- Excavation of the west side of banks downstream of the existing remnant foundation to remove legacy debris buried in the banks and prevent further erosion and downstream transport of exposed materials. Reconstruction of these banks to create terraced native plantings, enhance vistas from Latham Street, restore floodplain and further prevent erosion.
- Removal of existing remnant small dams and associated restoration of the stream channel and banks.
- Creation of a secondary stream channel through existing upland (at site of remnant foundation) to simulate the stream's natural braiding and sinuosity, decrease erosion potential and peak flow velocities at the existing constricted channel, and create additional floodplain and bordering vegetated wetland.
- Restoration and stabilization of the banks in the vicinity of an existing stone bridge along with improvements to the existing cart path and associated regrading of the slopes below the College's athletic fields and adjacent to the new Williams Inn to prevent erosion and enhance access to and through the restored site for educational use.
- Evaluation and possible removal of failing concrete walls and weirs in the vicinity of the existing stone springhouse.
- Native planting enhancements throughout the site, especially in areas where invasive plants have been removed.
- Additional invasive species control throughout the site.

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