



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114

Deval Patrick  
GOVERNOR

Timothy Murray  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ian Bowles  
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000  
Fax: (617) 626-1181  
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

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

PROJECT NAME : Town Pond  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Norfolk  
PROJECT WATERSHED : Charles River Watershed  
EOEA NUMBER : 13934  
PROJECT PROPONENT : Town of Norfolk/Recreation Department  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : December 23, 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 (EIR).

This project consists of the management of Common Reed (Phragmites) along the shoreline of Town Pond in Norfolk, MA. The purpose of the project is to reduce and eliminate as much Phragmites as practicable. The ENF indicates that it may eliminate approximately 90% of existing stands. Stands will be treated with a ¾% to 1% solution of the herbicide, which is US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered and state-approved containing the active ingredient glyphosate. It will be mixed in mixing tanks and applied directly to individual plants with a hand-held wand from a backpack sprayer. Treatment will be applied twice a year. The ENF indicates that the proponent has considered alternative approaches to chemical treatment including burning, cutting and harvesting, cutting and covering with plastic sheeting and mechanical removal. The proponent asserts that these alternatives either will not work effectively or will result in increased impacts to wetland areas.

In addition to phragmites removal, the proponent may make improvements to expand recreational opportunities at the site, including fishing and swimming. Improvements may include alterations to access roads and parking areas, construction of fishing platforms,


installation of an aerator for water quality, installation of fencing and removal and replacement of beach sand. The Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) Office of Fishing and Boating Access will design, permit and construct (dependent on available funding) the shore access improvements to support fishing and the DFG has entered into a Land Management Agreement with the Town of Norfolk regarding maintenance of the improvements. Recreational improvements will require the filing of a Notice of Intent with the Norfolk Conservation Commission.

Town Pond is a .75-acre pond located behind the former Town Hall at 100 Main Street. It abuts the commuter rail to the north, undeveloped land to the east and west and the former Town Hall and associated parking lot to the south. An unpaved access road extends from the parking lot to the pond and includes an unpaved parking area. The site includes two stands of Phragmites to the northwest and southwest.

The project is undergoing MEPA review pursuant to Section 11.03 (3)(b)(1)(d) because it requires a state permit and may consist of more than 5,000 square feet (sf) of alterations to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW).<sup>1</sup> The project requires a Superseding Order of Conditions and a Herbicide Application Approval from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

The review of the ENF has served to adequately disclose the potential impacts associated with this project. Based on the information in the ENF and after consultation with relevant public agencies, I find that the issues during the review process can be addressed adequately through state and local review. No further MEPA review is required.

January 22, 2007  
Date

  
Ian A. Bowles

No Comments Received

IAB/CDB/cdb

<sup>1</sup> At the November 9 site visit, the consultant indicated that eradication of phragmites will alter approximately 4,400 sf of BVW. Estimates of wetland alteration associated with the access improvements have not been developed but, based on the scope of the project, they are likely to exceed 600 sf and therefore the project, taken as a whole, would exceed 5,000 sf of BVW alteration.