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

PROJECT NAME : Ferncroft Country Club Pond Restoration
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Middleton and Topsfield
PROJECT WATERSHED : Ipswich River
EOEA NUMBER : 14168
PROJECT PROPONENT : Charles Costello
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : January 23, 2008

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 a pond restoration at the Ferncroft Country Club in Middleton and Topsfield. Approximately 8,000 cubic yards (cy) of sediment will be dredged from several ponds. The ponds will be dredged to a depth of eight to 14 feet to remove siltation. The project includes construction of a forebay at the outfall of an existing stormwater pipe associated with the sixth green to retard runoff and minimize the amount of silt entering the ponds. It includes installation of riprap within approximately 735 linear feet of Bank area associated with the three ponds adjacent to the second, sixth, and eighth greens. Natural planting shelves will be incorporated along the perimeter of the pond adjacent to the ninth fairway and the three ponds adjacent to the 18th fairway to enhance wetlands habitat. In addition, an existing disposal area will be expanded for sediment disposal and the existing maintenance yard adjacent to the disposal site will be cleaned up and restored. The ENF indicates that the project will alter approximately 111,569 square feet of Land Under Water (LUW) and 735 linear feet of Bank.

The site consists of an existing 18-hole golf course, constructed in 1968, that includes a series of ponds created by impounding Nichols Brook. Flow through the ponds is limited by siltation and the ponds contain purple loosestrife and other invasive species. The golf course is

bounded by I-95 to the east and existing residential and commercial development to the south, west and north. It appears that conditions at the golf course are exacerbated due to runoff from increased development within the watershed and upstream of the ponds.

The project is undergoing MEPA review pursuant to Section 11.03 (3)(b)(1)(f) because it requires a state permit and consists of alteration of 1/2 or more acres of any other wetlands. The project requires a 401 Water Quality Certificate from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). Also, it requires Orders of Conditions from the local Conservation Commission in Middleton and Topsfield, which were issued in 2007.

Because the proponent is not seeking financial assistance from the Commonwealth, MEPA jurisdiction extends to those aspects of the project that may have significant environmental impacts and that are within the subject matter of required or potentially required state permits. These include wetlands and water quality.

The proponent has submitted a 401 Water Quality Certification application. MassDEP has conducted a preliminary review of the application. Comments from MassDEP indicate that that additional sampling of pesticides/herbicides. The project is subject to the MassDEP Stormwater Management Policy as a redevelopment project. These comments indicate that the proponent should consider incorporating additional mitigation measures into the project to minimize sediment and/or nutrient loading prior to discharge, especially at the pond near the sixth green. During the permitting process, the proponent should report on any measures that are being implemented or could be implemented to reduce nutrient loading in stormwater runoff to the regulated wetlands on site. Comments from MassDEP indicate that the amount of riprap work be minimized to the extent feasible by considering areas where vegetative solutions could replace armoring.

As noted in the comments from MassDEP, I encourage the proponent to advance a stormwater management plan with upstream developments to reduce erosive peak flows and sediment loads. Finally, the proponent should consider incorporating additional stormwater controls for the cart path and roadway that may be contributing to sedimentation.

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 no further MEPA review is required. The project may proceed to permitting.

February 22, 2008

Date



Ian A. Bowles

Comments Received:

2/12/08 Department of Environmental Protection /Southeast Regional Office (MassDEP/ SERO)

IAB/CDB/cdb