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June 20, 2008

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

PROJECT NAME : Westport Youth Athletic Association Sports Field Complex
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Westport
PROJECT WATERSHED : Buzzards Bay
EOEA NUMBER : 14253
PROJECT PROPONENT : Westport Youth Athletic Association
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : May 21, 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).

The project consists of the development of a privately operated youth league sports field complex on municipal land in northern Westport. The Town has granted the proponent, the Westport Youth Athletic Association (WYAA), a 30-year lease on the property. The site was purchased by the Town of Westport using Agricultural and Open Space Trust Funds and Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. The project will include the development of seven new baseball/softball diamonds, three soccer fields, a field house with two indoor basketball courts and a concession area. The proponent intends to locate one of the baseball fields on an adjacent piece of land to the south of the site which is owned by the Town of Westport; however the proponent has not yet been granted a lease by the Town.

The project includes construction of a 24-foot wide paved access drive and other associated infrastructure including gravel parking areas, a stormwater management system, an on-site sanitary sewage disposal system and a water supply well. The access drive will extend approximately 3,100 feet into the site from the American Legion Highway (Route 177). The

stormwater management system includes grass swales, bioretention areas, deep sump hooded catch basins, sub-surface piping and surface detention basins.

The 76.7-acre site is undeveloped and almost entirely wooded. It is bounded by Route 177 and an existing residential parcel to the north, undeveloped land to the east and south of the site and Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) to the west. The BVW, which is tributary to Kirby Brook and the East Branch of the Westport River, extends from north to south. The site contains fieldstone walls and the parcel to the south contains a historic cemetery.

The project is undergoing MEPA review pursuant to Section 11.03 (1)(b)(2) and 11.03 (6)(b)(15) because it requires a state permit and will create more than five acres of impervious surfaces and construct more than 300 parking spaces. The project requires a Pump Test and New Source Approval Permit from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and an Access Permit from the Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway). The project requires an Order of Conditions from the Westport Conservation Commission (and hence a Superseding Order of Conditions from MassDEP if the local Order is appealed). The project may require a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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 traffic, wetlands and water quality.

Potential environmental impacts associated with the project include alteration of 35.2 acres of land, creation of 6.9 acres of impervious surfaces, alteration of 240,800 square feet of buffer zone, generation of 835 average daily vehicle trips (adt), use of 3,500 gallons per day of water and generation of 3,500 gpd of wastewater. Efforts to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts include avoidance of direct wetland alterations, construction of a stormwater management system consistent with the MassDEP revised stormwater standards and use of drought resistant and low irrigation landscaping and turf.

The Westport Conservation Commission confirmed the boundaries of the BVW in an Order of Resource Area Delineation (ORAD) issued March 27, 2007 (MassDEP File Number SE 80-1589). Comments from MassDEP indicate that the site appears to contain riverfront area because the site map (Figure 1) shows an intermittent stream flowing into a perennial stream located on the southern portion of the project site. MassDEP comments note that the proponent must provide an alternatives analysis with the Notice of Intent (NOI) that demonstrates that there are no practicable and substantially equivalent economic alternatives with less adverse effects. In addition, the NOI should include details of the proposed construction, a narrative and plans showing how impacts have been avoided, proposed mitigation measures, and detailed analyses, plans and calculations that demonstrate compliance with the Stormwater Management Standards.

Comments from the Westport River Watershed Alliance identify concern with the proposed roadway and the associated creation of 6.9 acres of impervious surfaces within the buffer zone and suggest the proponent consider an alternative design that would shorten the road by locating the parking near the entrance. In addition, the Alliance encourages the proponent to consider green design technologies such as composting toilets, rain gardens for stormwater

treatment and cisterns to hold stormwater for possible field irrigation. I agree that this project could serve as a good model of sustainable design for students and residents and encourage the proponent to re-consider the layout to minimize impervious surfaces and to incorporate additional measures to reduce water use.

At the site visit, held on June 5, 2008, the proponent indicated that the location of the public water supply well may shift as the design progresses. Comments from MassDEP note that a new public water supply source that can supply 3,500 gallons per day of drinking water requires a buffer (Zone I) consisting of a radius of 182-feet of land exclusively used for the protection and production of drinking water.

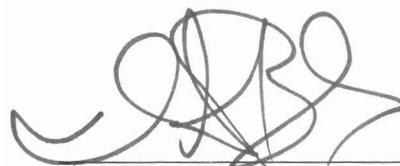
Comments from the Executive Office of Public Works and Transportation (EOTPW) indicate that the proponent should construct a bypass lane at the Route 177/site driveway intersection to ensure that the traffic associated with the project will have a minimal impact on the state highway system.

Comments from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) indicate that the maintenance of a vegetative buffer between the historic cemetery and the site will minimize the visual effects of the project to the historic cemetery.

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. Outstanding issues can be addressed during project permitting.

June 20, 2008

Date



Ian A. Bowles

Comments Received:

- 6/9/08 Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)/Southeast Regional Office (SERO)
- 6/9/08 Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works (EOTPW)
- 6/6/08 Massachusetts Historical Commission
- 6/12/08 Westport River Watershed Alliance

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