

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 EOEA No.: 14455
 MEPA Analyst: Purvi Patel
 Phone: 617-626-1029

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: Town of Norwell Cemetery		
Street: Stetson Shrine Lane		
Municipality: Norwell	Watershed: North River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: N 42.12559 Longitude: W 70.79253	
Estimated commencement date: April 2010	Estimated completion date: 2060 (full build-out)	
Approximate cost: \$1.5 million	Status of project design: 30 %complete	
Proponent: Town of Norwell (c/o Norwell Cemetery Committee)		
Street: 345 Main Street		
Municipality: Norwell	State: MA	Zip Code: 02601
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Brian Madden		
Firm/Agency: LEC Environmental Consultants, Inc.	Street: 36 Cordage Park Circle, Suite 312	
Municipality: Plymouth	State: MA	Zip Code: 02360
Phone: 508-746-9491	Fax: 508-746-9492	E-mail: bmadden@lecenvironmental.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 301CMR 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): NONE

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify _____) No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: MESA Conservation and Management Permit (321 CMR 10.23) and Site Plan Approval from Norwell Zoning Board of Appeals—To be filed and Board of Health approval received

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

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
LAND				<input type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: Conservation & Management Permit (321 CMR 10.23)</i>
Total site acreage	42.92			
New acres of land altered		12.13		
Acres of impervious area	0	1.73	1.73	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	0	600	600	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	15	15	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day (full build out)	0	60/weekday 100/weekend	60/weekday 100/weekend	
Parking spaces	0	15	15	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	500	500	
GPD water withdrawal	0	500	500	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	0	0	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0.95 (water)	0.95 (water)	

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 Estimated Habitat 190 and Priority Habitat 816; mapped for the presence of the Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), a Species of Special Concern. No Certified Vernal Pools exist on-site) 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 _____) 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.*)

a.) Project Site Description

The proposed project involves the construction of a town cemetery on a 42.92± acre project site located off Stetson Shrine Lane in Norwell, Massachusetts. The 42.92± acre project site is situated within the western portion of the town-owned "Stetson Meadows" property in Norwell, Massachusetts. The site affords frontage along Stetson Shrine Lane, which is partially paved to a cul-de-sac before transitioning to a gravel drive extending parallel and immediately north of Route 3 (Southeast Expressway). The project site itself is dominated by forested upland and forested wetland habitat cover types. Various recreational walking trails traverse the property.

As currently proposed, the town cemetery will be constructed in three phases over a 50-year(+) period. Temporary and permanent site alteration equals 12.13± acres of forested upland, while approximately 1.7± acres will be comprised of either restored early successional field habitat conditions ("Early Successional Habitat Edge") or stormwater drainage basins designed in conformance with Massachusetts Stormwater Management Regulations. Therefore, proposed permanent alteration to the project site amounts to 10.43± acres (24.3% of project site). All proposed work activities are located greater than 100 feet from Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW).

The proposed cemetery, consisting of various grave sites and columbariums, will be accessed off Stetson Shrine Lane by two gravel driveways to be built in Phases 1 and 2, respectively. Interior vehicular paths will be comprised of paved surfaces and all existing earthen walking paths will be maintained. Fifteen visitor parking spaces are proposed adjacent to a 600± square foot maintenance building. While a water line extension is proposed, the project does not involve any sewer extensions or septic system installation. Approximately 0.77± acres of forested upland areas will be retained within the interior of the cemetery layout. A Conservation Restriction (CR) is proposed to be executed with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) over 30.3± acres of the project site (70.6%).

b.) Alternatives

Over the past seven years, the Norwell Cemetery Committee has explored multiple sites in Town to construct a new cemetery. In May 2007, the Board of Selectmen, through a town meeting vote, authorized the Norwell Cemetery Committee to explore a proposed cemetery layout within a 20± acre footprint on the "Stetson Meadows" property. Considering that the proposed project site was located within a Priority Habitat of Rare Species and Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife, the Project Engineers (Merrill Associates, Inc.) submitted a MESA Project Review

application to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Under the original concept plan, the proposed disturbance associated with the cemetery construction (e.g., gravel sites, drainage basins, gravel access drives, small maintenance building, and surrounding lawn/landscaped areas) encompassed a much larger footprint, approximately 16.4± acres.

LEC and Bob Merrill (Merrill Associates, Inc.) met with NHESP on March 21, 2008, to discuss avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating potential impacts to Eastern Box Turtle habitat associated with the cemetery layout. Long-term phasing of the project, creating early successional edge habitat, construction-related oversight, work-timing considerations, temporary turtle barriers, phase-specific pre-construction turtle sweeps, and signage/monumentation were discussed. To provide a long-term net benefit for the Eastern Box Turtle, a Conservation Restriction would be required over a portion of the Stetson Meadows property.

Following the March 21, 2008 meeting and feedback from the Board of Selectman and Cemetery Committee, a landscape architect was retained to formally design the cemetery layout. Based on additional topographic detail, the landscape architect created the current layout that is more in keeping with the landscape, resulting in less site regrading. This allowed the cemetery footprint to be smaller in size, while maintaining the required number of grave sites. The revised cemetery layout was consolidated within the southwestern portion of the project site, nearly adjacent to Route 3 (Southeast Expressway), to afford greater contiguous, undeveloped Eastern Box Turtle habitat. Additionally, 30.3± acres were selected to be placed within a Conservation Restriction as discussed above. Ultimately, the revised layout was selected to maximize project consolidation and open space land, while avoiding and minimizing potential impacts to Eastern Box Turtle habitat.

Considering the Town's need for a new cemetery, a no build alternative has not been considered.

c.) Mitigation

As described above, the original cemetery layout occupied 16.4± acres of forested upland. In order to meet the permitting requirements enumerated under 321 (CMR 10.23) of the *Massachusetts Endangered Species Act* (MESA, M.G.L. c. 131A) and its implementing *Regulations* (321 CMR 10.00), the Norwell Cemetery Committee selected the reduced layout as discussed above. Mitigation in the form of on-site land/habitat protection (long-term "net-benefit") will result in 30.3± acres (70.6%% of the project site) to remain as Open Space and will be permanently protected under a Conservation Restriction to be executed with EEA, thus enabling the permanent protection of significant Eastern Box Turtle Overwintering, Feeding, Breeding, and Migratory Habitat. Furthermore, the Project Proponent has committed to creating and maintaining early successional field habitat conditions surrounding the cemetery footprint and stormwater management areas designed to function as potential Eastern Box Turtle Habitat. During the phased construction activities, the construction footprint will be encircled by temporary turtle barriers (entrenched silt fencing) and pre-construction turtle sweeps will be conducted by NHESP-approved wildlife biologists to physically relocate any Eastern Box Turtles outside the work zone.

Subsequent to filing the ENF, the Project Proponent will be filing a Conservation and Management Permit Application with NHESP to ensure the cemetery layout and mitigation/net benefit measures meet the performance standards of 321 CMR 10.23.