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WILLIAM F. MCNARY, P.L.S.
JOSEPH MARCH, P.E., P.L.S.

November 25, 2008

Acton Conservation Commission
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

Re: 442 Massachusetts Avenue
Comprehensive Permit, NOI

Members of the Commission,

In response to questions from the commission (in bold lettering below) regarding the referenced project, we offer the following responses. Also refer to our letter to the Board of Appeals dated November 24, 2008, Drainage Calculations dated November 24, 2008, and revised plan set dated November 17, 2008.

1. Present options for intercepting+slowing run-off from the back units and driveway to the wetland.

The roof runoff from the proposed building and existing house will drain to the proposed infiltration trench. The proposed grading has been adjusted such that a portion of the driveway will also drain to the proposed infiltration trench. A rain garden has been proposed at the end of the proposed driveway, which will collect runoff from the remainder of the proposed driveway. Therefore, all of the impervious surfaces on site will now be routed through either the infiltration trench or the rain garden prior to discharge to the buffer zone and ultimately to the wetlands.

2. What specific actions do they plan to take to "address the culvert adjacent to the K-mart parking lot?"

The Acton Engineering Department has suggested that the applicant clean the sediment that has accumulated adjacent to the culvert. The applicant will seek permission of the abutting land owner to perform the work and will do it after an affirmative response.

3. How will the proposed management of stormwater adequately protect the interests of the Act, specifically the wetlands and certified vernal pool within the wetlands located immediately south of the proposed construction area.

The plan, as revised, now treats stormwater from all impervious surfaces. Furthermore, runoff from the site flows away from the vernal pool, towards the Kmart drainage system. Under the wetlands protection act, the vernal pool habitat does not extend beyond the limit of the BVW, and there is no work or discharge proposed within the habitat. Generally, the interests of the Act will be protected as follows:

Protection of the Interests of the Wetlands Protection Act:

Public Water Supply: The site is located within the Groundwater Protection District Zone 4. This zone does not require additional measures to protect the groundwater supply, as it is the furthest from public wells. In addition, the applicant will be connecting to available public sewer and water. The sewer connection will comply with all required local and state setbacks with regards to the proposed water service.

Private Water Supply: The applicant will be connecting to Town water, which is currently available in Mass. Ave.. Private wells are not in use near the site.

Groundwater: The site has been designed with an infiltration trench so that the annual recharge of groundwater matches existing conditions, thus groundwater levels are maintained. Groundwater quality will be preserved through:

- utilizing town sewer
- provision of a rain garden will treat runoff prior to discharge towards the wetland
- providing an infiltration trench 2 feet above groundwater and in accordance with the Stormwater Management Standards
- there will be no direct discharges to the groundwater table

Flood Control: The area of proposed work is not located within Bordering Land Subject to Flooding as defined by the Wetlands Protection Act. No work is proposed within the BVW, therefore the flood storage capacity of the wetland will be unaffected. Also, post-development runoff has been attenuated such that there will be no additional runoff to the wetland for up to and including the 100-year storm event.

Erosion Control: A haybale siltation barrier is proposed between the limits of work and the bordering vegetated wetland in the locations specified on the Wetlands Protection Act Plan. This is the limit of work. The plan includes erosion and sedimentation control requirements for the construction phase and for permanent stabilization of soils.

Storm Damage Prevention: No work is proposed within the limits of the resource area, therefore the BVW's capacity for storm damage prevention will remain unchanged. Also, post-development runoff has been attenuated such that there will be no additional runoff to the wetland for up to and including the 100-year storm event.

Prevention of Pollution: The applicant is not proposing to store or dispose of any hazardous materials onsite. Also, the site has been designed in accordance with the stormwater management standards in terms of treatment of runoff. Again, since town sewer will service the site, there will be no subsurface discharge of sewage.

Protection of Land Containing Shellfish: There is no land containing shellfish on site.

Protection of Fisheries: There are no fisheries located on this site.

Protection of Wildlife Habitat: This site is not located within the Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife and Certified Vernal Pools as shown in the latest edition of the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas. Since there is no work proposed within the BVW, the wildlife habitat of the resource area will remain unchanged. Also, since there is no work proposed within the BVW, there is no work within Vernal Pool Habitat, since it extends 100 feet from the vernal pool but remains within the BVW. After construction, a vegetated buffer of about 44 feet will exist

between the edge of the proposed driveway and the BVW in the upland, thereby extending potential upland habitat into landscaped areas and maintaining wetland wildlife habitat..

4. What concerns did the landscape architect seek to address in designing the planting plan, including plant election and plant placement? Would she recommend a different selection and arrangement to improve stormwater management? If so, please describe how she would change the plan

Generally, the landscape architect attempted to maintain existing vegetation where possible. Screening of the property was a particular concern at the rear and side of the lot where the Kmart parking lot is expansive. At the rear of the property, near the BVW, screening was a particular concern due to the lack of tall vegetation within the wetland. Therefore, Arborvitae and Rhododendron were selected for evergreen cover. Otherwise, the LA selects native and naturalized, non-invasive plant species consistent with plantings that have been successful in the area. Once established, the plants selected will not require additional irrigation. The LA does not recommend a change to the plant selection from a stormwater perspective. However, in light of the addition of the proposed rain garden, specific plantings have been added according to the DEP stormwater handbook to promote stormwater treatment.

5. My main concern for George was to address the stormwater runoff from the new units and driveway. I would like him to consider some "green" alternatives like rain gardens or a stone infiltration trench around the back perimeter of the houses.

The roof runoff from the proposed building and existing house will drain to the proposed infiltration trench. The proposed grading has been adjusted such that a portion of the driveway will also drain to the proposed infiltration trench. A rain garden has been proposed at the end of the proposed driveway, which will collect runoff from the remainder of the proposed driveway. Therefore, all of the impervious surfaces on site will now be routed through either the infiltration trench or the rain garden prior to discharge to the buffer zone and ultimately to the wetlands.

6. We also need an updated plan showing any changes made to the driveway.

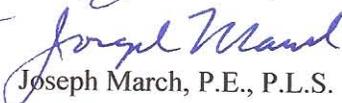
Refer to our letter to the Board of Appeals dates November 24, 2008, Drainage Calculations dated November 24, 2008, and revised plan set dated November 17, 2008.

Thank you for your time in consideration of this matter. Let us know if you have further questions.

Respectfully yours,

Stamski and McNary, Inc.


George Dimakarakos, P.E.


Joseph March, P.E., P.L.S.

cc: Steven Steinberg