

# **SOUTH RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL**

61 Meetinghouse Lane, Marshfield, MA 02050 Phone: 978-697-0854

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August 17, 2020

Town of Hingham Conservation Commission  
Attn: Ms. Loni Fournier – Conservation Officer  
Hingham Town Hall  
210 Central Street  
Hingham, MA 02043

Re: Request for Amendment to Order of Conditions  
DEP File No. SE034-1306  
306 & 392 Whiting Street – Hingham, MA

Dear Ms. Fournier and Commission Members:

On behalf of Bristol Brothers Development Corp. (the proponent), South River Environmental is requesting to amend the existing Order of Conditions for site improvements proposed for the Range Bar and Grille / Weathervane Academy facility located at 306 & 392 Whiting Street. The original Order of Conditions issued in October 2018 approved the proposed project which included construction of a new two-story building, associated parking facilities, subsurface wastewater disposal and stormwater management facilities. The project includes the permanent alteration of an isolated vegetated wetland located to the east of the existing parking area. To mitigate for the 6,280 square feet of wetland alteration, the proponent proposed 21,600 square feet of wetland replication to be located north of the proposed project activities. The wetland replication plan was approved by the Hingham Conservation Commission (Commission) through the issuance of the Order of Conditions for the project.

Prior to the commencement of any project-related activities, the proponent commenced construction of the wetland replication area in the spring / summer of 2019. The work associated with the wetland replication consisted primarily of excavation and rough grading of the area to establish the base depth and ensure hydrologic connectivity with the adjacent isolated wetlands. While a significant portion of the replication area was able to be excavated, the construction contractor encountered a significant amount of ledge which precluded the ability to rough grade the entire square footage of the approved wetland replication area. Based on as-built survey conducted to date, approximately half (10,802 square feet) of the proposed wetland replication area has been excavated.

Due to the extent of ledge present, the proponent is now proposing to reconfigure the wetland replication area to include a new area (approximately 4,740 square feet) located directly west of the completed portion of the replication area and add a new area located south of the existing cart path approximately 2,060 square feet in area. While the new total wetland replication area would be approximately 4,200 square feet less than that originally permitted, it would still exceed the required 2:1 mitigation ratio required under the Town of Hingham Wetlands Protection Regulations by approximately 4,900 square feet.

The overall objective to the wetland replication plan is to compensate for the impacts to the isolated wetland and to provide for additional potential vernal pool habitat. That objective will still be achieved by the revised design. In addition, it would continue to avoid significant impacts within the undisturbed buffer to Wetland Series G. A secondary benefit to the revised replication design is that it will improve the existing outlet from Wetland Series H that directs flow into Wetland Series G. The existing outlet consists of a 12-inch diameter flared end metal culvert that would be replaced with an open-bottom, three-sided

box culvert designed in consideration of the MA Stream Crossing Guidelines. This would aid the hydrologic connection between the two wetlands and would provide a secondary source of hydrology for the additional wetland replication area.

SRE has reviewed the revised layout and site conditions and believes that the proposed modification to the wetland replication area design will be constructible and will fully mitigate for the proposed impacts to the isolated vegetated wetland. The original design acknowledged the presence of ledge and potential difficulty with construction which is one of the reasons why the overall mitigation ratio was proposed in excess of three to one. Unfortunately, the extent of rock was greater than anticipate which necessitates the proposed modifications. Continuing with the original design would result in the need for a significant amount of blasting to fracture and remove the rock which would significantly extend the length of time required for construction and potentially adversely affect the existing hydrology. The revised design eliminates that concern and would allow for completion of the replication in 2020.

SRE appreciates the Commission's consideration of the request and has included a revised wetland replication area site plan as well as a revised wetland replication area construction / planting plan. In addition, an updated abutter list is attached as well as a signed copy of the Commission's policy on receipt of information. The required \$200.00 filing fee made payable to the Town of Hingham is also enclosed. SRE respectfully requests that this proposed Amendment to the Order of Conditions be placed on the agenda for the upcoming Conservation Commission public hearing to be held on August 31, 2020. Should you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at 978-697-0854 or via email at [southriverenvironmental@gmail.com](mailto:southriverenvironmental@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

**South River Environmental**



John Zimmer  
Wetland Scientist

Cc: Bristol Brothers Development Corp.  
Crocker Design Group  
MA DEP – Southeast Regional Office

Attachments