



April 8, 2020

Devens Enterprise Commission  
33 Andrews Parkway  
Devens, MA 01434

Attn: Mr. Peter Lowitt  
Land Use Administrator/Director

Dear Mr. Lowitt,

On February 13, 2020 the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency voted to recommend to the Devens Enterprise Commission the discontinuance of (1) any and all portions of Lake George Street not previously discontinued from its intersection with the proposed southeasterly property line of 45 Jackson Road northerly to its original intersection with the sideline of Givry Street and confirm any earlier discontinuances of Lake George Street between said points; and (2) the portion of Sherman Avenue north of Antietam Street. as shown on the attached sketch plans.

#### Northern Portion of Lake George Street

As part of the General Public Way Declaration Plan, Lake George Street was declared a public way from the Jackson Road/Patton Road intersection to its intersection with Givry Street. In response to previous land sales and the reconstruction of Jackson Road, portions of Lake George St. between the southeasterly property line of the 45 Jackson Road Parcel (+/- N3019845, E620902 – Mass State Plane (Mainland) Coord., NAD83) and its intersection with the sideline of Givry Street have already been discontinued. Staff has determined that these earlier discontinuance actions omitted portions of Lake George Street that also should have been discontinued. Accordingly, the present action is intended to confirm previous discontinuance approvals and to approve the discontinuance of any remaining portions of Lake George Street within the limits shown on the attached sketch. The remainder of Lake George Street (i.e., the southerly section) is intended to remain a public way for the purpose of providing frontage to the parcels on the west side of Lake George Street.

The discontinuance of the portions of Lake George Street shown on the attached sketch will not negatively impact traffic flow, provision of public safety services or general access to any existing or proposed parcels.

#### Northern Portion of Sherman Avenue

When the former Army roads were first declared public ways in Devens, Sherman Avenue was identified as a one-way entrance to Devens from West Main Street in Ayer and Jackson Road was identified as a one-way exit from Devens to West Main Street. This configuration was consistent

with the traffic patterns instituted by the Army when Fort Devens was operational, but as the redevelopment of Devens proceeded, this configuration channeled higher and higher volumes of traffic directly into one of the residential neighborhoods at Devens. The traffic analysis section of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and Devens Reuse Plan called for this northerly portion of Sherman Avenue to be discontinued and for the portion of Jackson Road between Antietam Street and West Main Street to be reconstructed as a two-way road. Jackson Road would then serve as a primary north-south thoroughfare for traffic to travel between Route 2 and points north.

Accordingly, as part of Phase 4 of the Jackson Road project, the northerly end of Sherman Avenue was disconnected from West Main Street, and Jackson Road was reconstructed to operate as a two-way roadway. Sherman Avenue now dead-ends adjacent the Willard Field Recreation Complex and south of both West Main Street and Jackson Road, and there is no longer a need for the portion of Sherman Avenue north of Antietam Street to remain a public way.

Upon the discontinuance, the discontinued section of the road will serve primarily as a gated access road to the Willard Field Recreation Complex. Discontinuance of the portion of Sherman Avenue north of Antietam Street will not negatively impact traffic flow, the provision of public safety services or authorized vehicular access Willard Field Recreation Complex.

In accordance with Chapter 498 and the Devens Bylaws, The Mass Development Board of Directors recommends Street Abandonment's and The Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC) approves or denies the request.

In keeping with the process established for the acceptance and abandonment of public ways, I am requesting that the DEC vote to approve the Discontinuance of the portion of Lake George Street and MacArthur Ave as discussed above and as shown on the attached sketch plans..

Sincerely,

John Marc-Aurele, PE  
Director of Engineering

Copy: Jessica Strunkin, SVP Devens Operations  
David Blazon, Director of Public Works