

**Devens Enterprise Commission
DEC Public Hearing & Meeting
Minutes January 28, 2020**

Members: William Castro, Duncan Chapman, Jim DeZutter, Robert Gardner, William Marshall, Jim Pinard, Marty Poutry, Paul Routhier

Staff: Peter Lowitt, Neil Angus, Kate Clisham

Absent: Dix Davis, Melissa Fetterhoff, Christopher Lilly, Robert Markley

W. Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM and read the agenda.

6:47 PM **M/S/V** J. DeZutter, W. Marshall to approve January 9, 2020 minutes as written; approved unanimously.

6:47 PM **Wetland Request for Determination Applications from MassDevelopment in accordance with 974 CMR 4.06(6)(c), the purpose of this public meeting is for the DEC to review and ratify, modify, or disapprove any preliminary determination by the DEC Director on each of the following projects.**

Proposed road resurfacing, new curbing, sidewalks, and drainage improvements within 100 feet of wetlands. Property located in the Hospital Road Right-of-Way on, and in the vicinity of 40 Hospital Road Parcel ID #17-99-1900, Devens MA in the Village Growth I District, Open Space and Recreation District, and Aquifer Water Resources Protection District

P. Lowitt introduced John Marc-Aurele from MassDevelopment Devens Engineering Department. He reported the projects intent is to take an area where an old Army treatment system is providing no treatment and manage the roadway drainage in this area off Hospital Road in the Shirley Village Growth District. He reported at this time the undeveloped area is not intended to house future development. J. Marc-Aurele introduced Elena Compter and Larry Keegan from Weston & Sampson to provide an overview of the proposed project. E. Compter reported the current system discharges with a little pretreatment to a steep slope forested area that abuts the Nashua River wetland system. She indicated there is no treatment of runoff currently and the new system will combine the Hospital Road, Elliot Road and Perimeter Road systems into one central drainage network and include a stormwater treatment with deep sump, hooded catch basins, a grass lined swale, sediment forebay and a detention/infiltration basin. E. Compter noted several environmental challenges with the wetlands and steep slopes. W. Castro asked if there will be new sidewalks and curbing from Perimeter Road to access the Shirley Commons site. J. Marc-Aurele indicated they will be connecting the sidewalk right up to the school. He indicated this is not in the current project but is part of the long range plans. As part of this project they plan to move the sidewalk back and add striped bike lanes. P. Lowitt indicated staff appreciates the addition of the striped bike lanes. N. Angus asked if the swales would be lined. E. Compter indicated they are not lined but will travel to a hooded catch basin. N. Angus noted the DEC's consultant commented there is no erosion and sediment control plan. E. Compter reported the site is linear with filter tubes install silt sacks to catch erosion. N. Angus noted he's not sure if the swales are required to be lined but it was a suggestion from Nitsch. N. Angus asked about where the swale ends. J. Marc-Aurele reported the primary problem is access but it will be picked up by other catch basins. J. Marc-Aurele noted they would have pushed the project further back but they had to be within MassDevelopment land. W. Castro asked if they talked to Shirley about access or an easement. J. Marc-Aurele said they may if necessary. N. Angus reported the bigger issue is the out fall, it's all forested and open field around the edge of the basin. The area is too steep and tight currently so there will be less overturn after this project is constructed to avoid erosion. They should add straw waddles to reduce any additional damage. W. Castro asked if there will be an environmental monitor onsite. J. Marc-Aurele indicated they reached out to MEPA staff and based on the ACEC area this maintenance is exempt. N. Angus indicated only a small portion falls in the ACEC but we will get clarification. P. Lowitt indicated we need a bit of time to receive responses so we will table until the February 6th 7:30 AM meeting.

7:15 PM **Proposed Patton Well Pilot PFAS Treatment System and associated utilities installation within 100 feet of wetlands. Property located at 168 Patton Road (Parcel ID #11-99-204) Devens MA in the Open Space and Recreation District and Zone 1 Water Resources Protection Overlay District.**

N. Angus reported this project proposes a PFAS different treatment technology than what was used at the MacPherson well. Devens Utilities will test the technology here at the Patton well using resin filters instead of granular activated carbon filters (GAC). The Patton well is not currently in use, this is a back-up supply well if needed. N. Angus reported this involves the installation of three resin filters that have already been placed on-site inside two shipping containers on the existing asphalt. In order to operate the filters, they first need to be conditioned which involves running potable water through the filters for 10-20 minutes. The total volume of discharge is roughly 600-1,200 gallons over a 3-day period. N.

Angus noted this is much less discharge with the new technology compared to the GAC filters used at the MacPherson well. He reported there are wetlands nearby and indicated that with the containers there should be little to no disturbance with this project. N. Angus indicated inspections at the site had seen a considerable washout into the wetland area because of runoff from the paved driveway and past hydrant flushing operations along Patton Road. Devens Utilities has re-installed riprap in the bio filtration swale between the pavement and wetlands to slow the velocity of run off and straw waddle erosion controls to help protect the adjacent wetland resource area however these repairs have not fixed the problem. Runoff is still flowing into the riprap and undermining the soils below that are washing into the wetland area. To avoid soil erosion the area needs to be re-graded and stabilized with geotextile fabric or erosion control blankets before any riprap is replaced. Devens Utilities needs to re-construct this portion of the drainage system prior to discharging any filter backwash water into the swale. DEC staff has requested any resin filter flushing discharge be directed to the existing bio filtration basin via a hose and filter bag in the bottom of the basin to avoid any erosion. Future filter flushing is required with this technology and the same control measures will need to be used for these future events as well. N. Angus reported this area is also within a Natural Heritage Endangered Species Act priority habitat area for Blanding's Turtle. To avoid any impacts to this threatened species, any ground disturbance needs to occur outside of the turtles active season April 15 – October 15th. P. Routhier asked if this will be monitored by DEP. N. Angus indicated yes. He noted this is a test pilot for Devens; it is not a new product but an improvement to current approvals. Staff suggests issuing a Negative Determination of Applicability to ratify the Directors determination. M/S/V J. DeZutter, W. Marshall to ratify the Directors Negative Determination of Applicability; approved unanimously. W. Marshall asked if the current treatment is removing PFAS. N. Angus indicated yes, it's treating to non-detectable limits for PFAS. J. Pinard reported Ayer is also working on PFAS treatments. N. Angus noted PFAS is everywhere. P. Routhier asked about the lowered limits from DEP. N. Angus indicated the DEP is still creating new regulations but the Federal guidelines are at 70 parts per trillion (PPT).

7:37 PM Old Business:

None

7:37 PM Public Comment:

J. Pinard reported Clear Path for Veterans New England will host a comedy night at Devens Common on March 21, 2020.

7:39 PM **M/S/V** J. DeZutter, W. Marshall to adjourn, approved unanimously.

List of Exhibits –

- Agenda, Draft Minutes 1/9/2020
- Staff Report 1/27/2020 RE: Hospital Road Resurfacing and Drainage Improvements
- Staff Report 1/24/2020 RE: Patton Well Pilot PFAS Treatment System Improvements