



October 1, 2018

New Bedford Conservation Commission
133 William Street #312
New Bedford, MA 02740

RE: **FILE #SE49-0810**
BARTLETT STREET DRIVE EXTENSION

Dear Commission Members:

At the initial public hearing on the above referenced matter, several abutters raised a few issues regarding the proposed drive extension. The following are our responses:

Comment # 1 – The wet meadow has standing water during the wet season. (Several photos of a vibrant wet meadow were shown but not submitted.)

Response – We agree that the project area is bordered by a wet meadow which floods, as it should. It will continue to flood under design conditions. As the Commission will readily agree, the seasonal occurrence of ponding in a wet meadow is desirable.

Comment #2 – There is a sewer easement which crosses the site.

Response – The New Bedford sewer easement and sewer are shown on the plan. They do not impact the proposed drive. In fact, the proposed drive will make it easier for the New Bedford Department of Infrastructure to inspect and maintain the sewer with less impact to the wetlands.

Comment #3 – Previous Surveyors have made minor errors on the exact area of the abutter's property.

Response – Previous surveys of the abutter's property are not relevant to the proposed improvements. The abutter has hired a Surveyor to reconcile the previous Surveyor's errors. The Conservation Commission should let the abutter's Surveyor determine his exact lot area.

Comment #4 – The proposed project will flood their dwellings.

Response – The abutter's lowest floor is over 3 feet higher than Bartlett Street and over 4 feet higher than the wet meadow and over 2 feet higher than the proposed drive. The existing dwelling cannot flood from the proposed drive.

Comment #5 – The edge of the abutter's lawn will flood due to the proposed drive.

Response – The abutter has planted ornamental shrubs and a lawn in the no disturb zone on the other side of the post and rail fence that has a sign that alerts them that the area is not to be disturbed. That area floods on occasion under existing conditions. It will continue to flood to the same extent on occasion once the proposed drive is constructed. This will cause no damage and is not relevant to the permit process.

Comment #6 – The proposed drive is on the abutter's land.

Response – The proponent of the drive has a 50 foot wide easement across the abutter's land that allows the installation of the drive and utilities. The City Solicitor has confirmed that right to Sarah Porter.

Comment #7 – During heavy storms, runoff flows down the Bartlett Street gutter to the catch basin on the corner of Bristol Street.

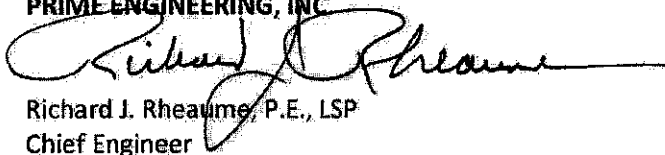
Response – We agree that streets are designed to have water flow in the gutters to catch basins. That will continue to happen once the drive is constructed.

Most of the other comments related to the need for dust control in the summer, trucks parked on the public road and other comments that are not relevant to wetland permitting.

We will continue to respond to all comments from the Commission, the Agent, your Consultant and the abutters.

Sincerely,

PRIME ENGINEERING, INC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard J. Rheau", is written over the printed name and title.

Richard J. Rheau, P.E., LSP
Chief Engineer