



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

June 29, 2018

Memorandum

To: Conservation Commission

From Sarah Porter, Conservation Agent

cc: Lars Carlson, VHB

Re: SE49-0805

Notice of Intent for the New Bedford Main Line Railroad

I offer the following comments after review of the Notice of Intent:

1. Attachment B – the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation only included an evaluation of the Bank of NBS-23 (which was inadvertently attached twice). We are in need of the Wildlife Habitat Evaluations A & B for Bank - NBS-3 and Land Under Water Ways for NBS-3.
2. I consulted with Mary Rapoza on the appropriate mulch to use on the shrub plantings. She suggested that pine bark mulch will not stay in place on side slopes and that leaf mulch works better. Both of which should be 100% organic. The shrub plantings for this mitigation area are not on much of a slope so pine bark mulch is acceptable or leaf mulch.
3. The cross section for the wetland mitigation area shows excavation of 12" of wetland soil in the temporarily impacted adjacent wetland and replacement with 12" of manufactured wetland soils. I could not find this discussed in the NOI but I am in favor of it since the wetland soils at this location contain Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) rhizomes. The temporarily impacted wetland should then be planted with a few wetland shrubs and seeded with the wetland seed mix.
4. Is the fence proposed for the entire length of the track? It appears to be located in front of the wildlife crossings at Stations 2545 (East & West), 2558 (West) and 2559 (West) and a portion of the vernal pool at Station 2558 to 2558 +80 (West). At other wildlife crossings no fence is shown.

It should not be located in front of wildlife crossings. I could not find a detail of the fence to determine if it leaves a 6" opening at the bottom for wildlife movement.

5. Similar Special Conditions related to the wetland mitigation shall be placed in this Order of Conditions as were recommended for the Tarkiln Hill Rail Intersection SE49-0797 in the memo dated April 2, 2018 to DPI.