

July 21, 2021

Maeghan Dos Anjos
Conservation Agent/Director
Town of Ashland
101 Main Street
Ashland, MA 01721

RE: Nitsch Project #13609
Notice of Intent
David Mindess Elementary School
Ashland, MA

Dear Ms. Dos Anjos,

Nitsch Engineering is in receipt of review comments Maeghan Dos Anjos, Conservation Agent/Director of Ashland, MA related to the Notice of Intent application filed with the Ashland Conservation Commission on June 25, 2021 for the David Mindess Elementary School at 90 Concord Street.

1. *No file number has been issued. No worries on this as DEP seems to be delayed in issuing these.*

A file number has since been issued (File Number 095-0958).

2. *A waiver must be submitted for work within the 25' No Disturb Zone (NDZ). We do not have a standard template for this. You will need to submit a narrative that includes mitigation (drainage improvements, native species, bank restoration, invasive species removal, impervious surface removal etc.). Note that the mitigation should be shown on the plans. While the NOI includes mitigation measures for the floodplain, it should also explain mitigation within the NDZ section. Please see our regulations for more information on our waiver requirements.*

Nitsch will submit a waiver for this work prior to the next hearing.

3. *Due to Mr. Stephen Morgan's comment number 7 from the email I forwarded to you, you may want to reach out to the Community Preservation Committee and/or the Community Preservation Coalition to determine if the plan set is in compliance with Article 97 policies and the Community Preservation Act. It looks like the CPA funding was for recreational purposes on May 1, 2013. It had a project ID of 37482. Note that our Town ID is 14. If you contact the Coalition, I suspect that you will need that project ID.*

The Town Counsel has reviewed the implications of Article 97 for this site and has provided a written opinion on this matter. The written response is provided as an attachment to this letter.

4. *I worry about potential drawdown impacts to the stream in relation to the proposed geothermal well fields. Any information you have to clarify this would be greatly appreciated.*

The geothermal well field is a closed system and will not intake groundwater. Therefore, the geothermal well field will not have an impact on the groundwater or stream.

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5. *Unfortunately, my computer was not capable of opening your plans and scrolling down to the grading plans and landscape plans. I have no comments on the grading until I can get back to the office. Because I could not scroll down to the planting plan, I cannot tell if the proposed species are native or not. If not, please plan to revise the plans to include native species only.*

Please let us know if you have had a chance to review the grading and landscape plans and have any questions.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the comments provided.

Very truly yours,

Nitsch Engineering, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittney Veeck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brittney Veeck
Senior Project Engineer