



MASSWILDLIFE

DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE

Jack Buckley, *Director*

February 27, 2018

Groton Conservation Commission
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

Mark Haddad
Town of Groton
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450

RE: Applicant: Mark Haddad, Town of Groton
 Project Location: 163 West Main Street
 Project Description: Redevelopment of Town Senior Center
 DEP Wetlands File No: Not assigned
 NHESP File No.: **17-37294**

Dear Commissioners & Applicant:

The Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (the "Division") received a Notice of Intent with site plans (dated 2/9/18) in compliance with the rare wildlife species section of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.58(4)(b) & 10.59). The Division also received the MESA Review Checklist and supporting documentation for review pursuant to the MA Endangered Species Act Regulations (321 CMR 10.18).

WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT (WPA)

Based on a review of the information that was provided and the information that is currently contained in our database, the Division has determined that this project, as currently proposed, **will not adversely affect** the actual Resource Area Habitat of state-protected rare wildlife species. Therefore, it is our opinion that this project meets the state-listed species performance standard for the issuance of an Order of Conditions.

Please note that this determination addresses only the matter of **rare** wildlife habitat and does not pertain to other wildlife habitat issues that may be pertinent to the proposed project.

MASSACHUSETTS ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (MESA)

Based on a review of the information that was provided and the information that is currently contained in our database, the Division has determined that this project, as currently proposed, **must be conditioned to avoid a prohibited Take of Blanding's Turtle**. Therefore, the following conditions must be met:

1. The Applicant shall submit a Blanding's Turtle Protection Plan. Said Protection Plan must be approved in writing by the Division prior to the start of Work. The Division is available for consultation on the development of the plan.

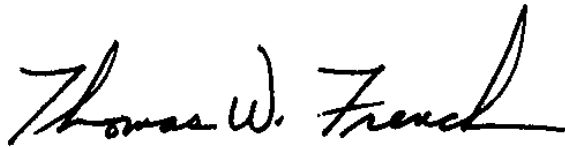
MASSWILDLIFE

2. The Applicant shall submit an Operations and Maintenance Plan for the proposed storm water structures and drainage areas. Said Plan must be approved in writing by the Division prior to the start of Work.
3. All erosion and sedimentation controls shall be removed and properly disposed of after the project is completed and as soon as surrounding areas are stabilized.
4. The project proposes the use of vertical curbing ranging in height from 7" to 12". The Division requests the use of Cape Cod (A Berm) style curbing or sloped curbing that is less than 6" in height. These alternatives are easier for turtles to move across and over when encountered.

Provided the above-noted conditions are fully implemented and there are no changes to the project plans, this project will not result in a Take of state-listed species. We note that all work is subject to the anti-segmentation provisions (321 CMR 10.16) of the MESA. This determination is a final decision of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife pursuant to 321 CMR 10.18. Any changes to the proposed project or any additional work beyond that shown on the site plans may require an additional filing with the Division pursuant to the MESA. This project may be subject to further review if no physical work is commenced within five years from the date of issuance of this determination, or if there is a change to the project.

Please note that this determination addresses only the matter of state-listed species and their habitats. If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact David Paulson, Senior Endangered Species Biologist at 508-389-6366.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas W. French". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Thomas W. French, Ph.D.
Assistant Director

c.c. Greg Roy, Ducharme & Dillis Civil Design Group, Inc.
MA DEP Central Region