



May 21, 2019

South Hadley Conservation Commission
116 Main St
South Hadley, MA 01705

**RE: South Hadley Dog Park
Mulligan Drive-**

Dear Board Members:

On behalf of the Town of South Hadley, we respectfully submit this application for a Request for Determination of Applicability for a proposed dog park on Mulligan Drive. The property is currently owned by the Town of South Hadley. The western extent of the parcel is currently used by the Town-owned Ledges golf course, but there is no current use on the proposed location of the dog park.

This letter discusses existing conditions and proposed project conditions. A set of site plan drawings is enclosed.

Area Description

The site is approximately 1.76 acres bounded by Mulligan Drive to the south, South Hadley water tower to the west, property bounds to the north and east, as well as bordering vegetated wetlands on the northeastern and southeastern portions of the site. Wetland boundaries were determined as part of a re-delineation for the Town of South Hadley Ledges Golf Course in 2005. The site is a former agricultural site currently undergoing succession. Vegetation includes a mix of mature white pine, maple, oak, and sycamore along Mulligan Drive and within the wetland locations. The majority of the site is dominated by herbaceous vegetation, young tree and shrub saplings, and a series of non-native, invasive species including oriental bittersweet and multiflora rose. The wetland locations may have developed overtime as former farm field drainage ditches.

Work Description

The project proposes to develop a publicly accessible dog park that will include an 18-space parking lot and park entrance area with double gates to enter two fenced in off-leash dog areas. Each dog area includes water fountain for dogs, benches, and accessible, walking loops. The large dog area to the west also includes a more naturalistic upper terrace containing a stone dust walking path, woodland grove, and native herbaceous grassland and wildflower meadow. Rice stone surfacing is proposed within the accessible path of the lower terrace of the large dog area. Within the small dog area, mown lawn surfacing is proposed within loop walk. Outside the fencing, native grass and wildflower conservation mix is proposed to stabilize slopes, reduce encroachment from invasive species, and provide habitat for wildlife.

Within the 100-foot wetland buffer, a total of 1,747 square feet of asphalt surfacing is proposed as part of two accessible pathways within the large and small dog areas. Fencing, fence posts and footings, and regrading are also proposed within the 100-foot wetland buffer. No work is proposed within the 50-foot conservation zone, per § 240-3 *Conservation Zone*, of the South Hadley Local Wetland Protection Bylaw. Temporary erosion control barriers will be placed along the limit of work at the edge of the 50-foot conservation zone. All slopes along regraded areas will be stabilized with boulders and seeded native wildflower conservation mix to stabilize soils.

The proposed stormwater management strategies conform to all Massachusetts DEP stormwater management standards and design guidelines.

CMR 310 10.02(2)(b)3

With the assumption that this project could *potentially* have an impact on a Resource Area identified in M.G.L. c. 131, § 40, this Request for Determination is being submitted to demonstrate compliance for work in the Buffer Zone which is subject to review under 310 CMR 10.02(2)(b)3. The project, as submitted, contends the work will have no adverse impacts and will avoid any alteration to the Resource Area (BVW) or its interests described under section 310 CMR 10.55(1). As stated under section 310 CMR 10.55(1) and as proposed, the project will protect the interests of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands in the following manner:

1. *Public or private water supply* – This project will not impair the ability of the adjacent Bordering Vegetated Wetland to protect the public or private water supply. Storm water flows entering the Resource Area are being treated and managed in accordance with the regulations with respect to water quality and quantity. The project will not increase the amount sediment, nutrients or toxic substances which could negatively impact a public or private water supply.
2. *Ground water supply* – The ground water supply will not be impacted by this project in terms of either water contribution or passage. Rainfall from any storm event will be treated and managed on-site in accordance with the Massachusetts Storm Water Standards and in accordance with 310 CMR 10.02(5). The bottom elevation of all proposed structures, storm water structures, retaining walls and other subsurface foundations will be a minimum of 24” above observed seasonal high ground water so as not to limit, restrict or impair the movement of ground water across the site.
3. *Flood control* – Proposed improvements will have no impact on the ability of the adjacent Bordering Vegetated Wetland to store and retain storm water runoff during any storm event given existing elevations and outlet locations. Elevations within the Resource Area and the elevations of any outlet location will not be disturbed so as to reduce the flood control of this BVW. All work is located within the Buffer Zone only. This site has not been identified as an area subject to flooding according to the most recent FEMA Flood Data.
4. *Storm damage prevention* – This project will retain the existing storm flows to the adjacent Bordering Vegetated Wetland in compliance with the regulations so as not to increase the potential for on-site damage or off-site damage due to erosion or increased flows downstream. Work within the Buffer Zone associated with this project will not impact the ability of the Resource Area to protect against storm damage. The project has been designed to minimize the potential for any damage through compliance with all applicable storm water and utility regulations.
5. *Prevention of pollution* – Runoff from paved surfaces and other areas subject to the collection of potentially hazardous materials will be collected in a closed drainage system and treated to meet or exceed the requirements of the Massachusetts Storm Water Standards. The project will not reduce the pollutant removal potential of the adjacent Bordering Vegetated Wetland nor will it increase the amount of pollutants that need to be removed.

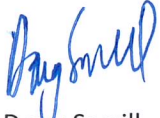
6. *Protection of fisheries* – There are no known fisheries on or adjacent to the site that would be impacted by this project. Runoff from the site and through the Resource Area will not be altered in a manner that could potentially impact fisheries downstream of this site.
7. *Protection of wildlife habitat* – The project site has been maintained as farm field and drainage ditches for as long as records indicate, until approximately the last 20 years in which the area has undergone ecological succession. This includes all areas of the site including Resource Areas subject to jurisdiction. The limited habitat created by succession will be improved following this project by removing non-native, invasive species and adding floral diversity to the wetland buffer along the edges of the project site.

Conclusion

We are confident the proposed plan addresses the requirements of the Wetland Protection Act and the South Hadley Wetlands By-law. We look forward to presenting this site plan to the Commission at your next meeting.

Sincerely,

Berkshire Design Group



Doug Serrill

Landscape Designer



WPA Form 1- Request for Determination of Applicability

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

A. General Information

Important:
When filling out forms on the computer, use only the tab key to move your cursor - do not use the return key.



1. Applicant:
 Town of South Hadley
 Name _____ E-Mail Address _____
 116 Main St.
 Mailing Address _____
 South Hadley MA 01075
 City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 413-538-5017
 Phone Number _____ Fax Number (if applicable) _____

2. Representative (if any):
 Berkshire Design Group
 Firm _____ E-Mail Address _____
 Doug Serrill Doug@berkshiredesign.com
 Contact Name _____
 4 Allen Place
 Mailing Address _____
 Northampton MA 01060
 City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 (413) 582-7000
 Phone Number _____ Fax Number (if applicable) _____

B. Determinations

1. I request the _____ make the following determination(s). Check any that apply:
 Conservation Commission

- a. whether the **area** depicted on plan(s) and/or map(s) referenced below is an area subject to jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act.
- b. whether the **boundaries** of resource area(s) depicted on plan(s) and/or map(s) referenced below are accurately delineated.
- c. whether the **work** depicted on plan(s) referenced below is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act.
- d. whether the area and/or work depicted on plan(s) referenced below is subject to the jurisdiction of any **municipal wetlands ordinance** or **bylaw** of:

 Name of Municipality

- e. whether the following **scope of alternatives** is adequate for work in the Riverfront Area as depicted on referenced plan(s).
- _____



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C. Project Description (cont.)

b. Identify provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act or regulations which may exempt the applicant from having to file a Notice of Intent for all or part of the described work (use additional paper, if necessary).

Please refer to the attached narrative, South Hadley Dog Park, Mulligan Drive.

3. a. If this application is a Request for Determination of Scope of Alternatives for work in the Riverfront Area, indicate the one classification below that best describes the project.

- Single family house on a lot recorded on or before 8/1/96
- Single family house on a lot recorded after 8/1/96
- Expansion of an existing structure on a lot recorded after 8/1/96
- Project, other than a single family house or public project, where the applicant owned the lot before 8/7/96
- New agriculture or aquaculture project
- Public project where funds were appropriated prior to 8/7/96
- Project on a lot shown on an approved, definitive subdivision plan where there is a recorded deed restriction limiting total alteration of the Riverfront Area for the entire subdivision
- Residential subdivision; institutional, industrial, or commercial project
- Municipal project
- District, county, state, or federal government project
- Project required to evaluate off-site alternatives in more than one municipality in an Environmental Impact Report under MEPA or in an alternatives analysis pursuant to an application for a 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or 401 Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Protection.

b. Provide evidence (e.g., record of date subdivision lot was recorded) supporting the classification above (use additional paper and/or attach appropriate documents, if necessary.)



WPA Form 1- Request for Determination of Applicability

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

D. Signatures and Submittal Requirements

I hereby certify under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing Request for Determination of Applicability and accompanying plans, documents, and supporting data are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I further certify that the property owner, if different from the applicant, and the appropriate DEP Regional Office were sent a complete copy of this Request (including all appropriate documentation) simultaneously with the submittal of this Request to the Conservation Commission.

Failure by the applicant to send copies in a timely manner may result in dismissal of the Request for Determination of Applicability.

Name and address of the property owner:

Town of South Hadley

Name
116 Main St.

Mailing Address
South Hadley

City/Town

MA

State

01075

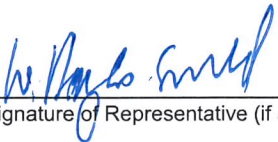
Zip Code

Signatures:

I also understand that notification of this Request will be placed in a local newspaper at my expense in accordance with Section 10.05(3)(b)(1) of the Wetlands Protection Act regulations.

Signature of Applicant

Date



Signature of Representative (if any)

Date