



Mary Thomas <wzzw19@gmail.com>

RE: Notice of Minor Project Change, Mormon Hollow Brook Trail Crossing, Wendell State Forest, Mass DEP #WE 325-57

1 message

Echandi, Alexandra (DCR) <Alexandra.Echandi2@mass.gov> Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 12:51 PM
To: Ward Smith <ward.ves@gmail.com>
Cc: Wendell Commission <wendell.ma.concom@gmail.com>, Mary Thomas <wzzw19@gmail.com>, "Christoffersen, Amber (DCR)" <Amber.Christoffersen@mass.gov>

Thank you, Ward. Let me know if you'd like me to attend the meeting.

-Ale

From: Ward Smith <ward.ves@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 5, 2024 12:51 PM
To: Echandi, Alexandra (DCR) <Alexandra.Echandi2@mass.gov>
Cc: Wendell Commission <wendell.ma.concom@gmail.com>; Mary Thomas <wzzw19@gmail.com>; Christoffersen, Amber (DCR) <Amber.Christoffersen@mass.gov>
Subject: Re: Notice of Minor Project Change, Mormon Hollow Brook Trail Crossing, Wendell State Forest, Mass DEP #WE 325-57

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We have a meeting on 9/10 and will discuss it then. It looks fine to me, but we need to have an official vote. Ward

On Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 12:06 PM Echandi, Alexandra (DCR) <Alexandra.Echandi2@mass.gov> wrote:

Hi Ward,

I hope you are doing well. Does the Commission have any comments or feedback regarding the Minor Project Change referenced below for the Mormon Hollow Brook Trail Crossing Project at Wendell State Forest?

Thank you, Ale

From: Echandi, Alexandra (DCR)

Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 12:09 PM

To: Ward Smith <ward.ves@gmail.com>

Cc: Wendell Commission <wendell.ma.concom@gmail.com>; Mary Thomas <wzzw19@gmail.com>; Christoffersen, Amber (DCR) <Amber.Christoffersen@mass.gov>

Subject: Notice of Minor Project Change, Mormon Hollow Brook Trail Crossing, Wendell State Forest, Mass DEP #WE 325-57

Dear Ward and members of the Wendell Conservation Commission,

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has awarded the Mormon Hollow Brook / New England Trail Bridge Replacement Project (Mass DEP #WE 325-57 issued on 9/13/2023 and recorded on 10/18/2023) to T-Ford Company, Inc. Project activities are scheduled to initiate in October of 2024. While awarding the contract, DCR noted that the bridge abutment design was updated between the issuance of the Order of Conditions and the Construction Specification. DCR also identified the Sugar Maple (*Acer sacharrum*) adjacent to the bridge approach from Farley Road as a hazard tree that should be removed. The changes could be considered a Minor Change to the approved Project Plans as all work remains within the previously approved Limit of Work and there are no changes to the Wetland Resource Area impact calculations.

Minor Project Change, Bridge Abutments

During the final design stages of the project, DCR and the Coneco Engineer determined that concrete foundations would extend the life span of the bridge and made changes to the bridge abutment design. As previously designed, the bridge abutments consisted of helical piers with a pressure-treated wood sill foundation. The wood sill foundation would not span the lifetime of the bridge (composite material that should last >50 years) requiring DCR to replace the sills approximately every 10 years. As a result, DCR updated the foundations to concrete sills which will last as long as the remainder of the bridge structure.

As previously noted, this minor project change will not result in any new disturbances within the 200-Riverfront Area and the 100-foot Buffer to Bank, and will occur within the previously approved Limit of Work.

Hazard Tree Removal

While DCR originally indicated that the Sugar Maple tree located adjacent to the bridge approach from Farley Road would be protected, additional assessments by the DCR's foresters have identified the tree as a hazard that could potentially impact the new bridge in the near future. As a result, DCR plans to remove the tree in advance of the project activities. To minimize ground disturbance, the stump will remain in place.

All other trees within the Riverfront Area and buffer zone will be protected and avoided so that they can continue to provide shade and other ecological benefits within this and other wetland resource areas.

For your consideration and review, attached please find Project Plan Sheets showing the approved OOC foundation and the proposed concrete bridge foundation, as well as photo pages of existing and proposed conditions. In order to meet our construction schedule, DCR would like to move forward with the proposed work as a field change in approximately two (2) months.

Please note that Jonathan Patton, DCR Archeologist, reviewing the project changes on-site and indicated that there are no cultural resources concerns as the changes will occur within the previously approved Limit of Work.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the enclosed information. Please let us know if we may proceed with the change as planned. Thank you for your consideration,

Ale

Alexandra (Ale) Echandi

Trails & Greenways Planner

Division of Design and Engineering

Department of Conservation and Recreation

alexandra.echandi2@mass.gov