11 April 2019

Dexter Legg, Chair City of Portsmouth Planning Board 1 Junkins Avenue Portsmouth, NH 03801

Re: Conditional Use Permit Request

Tax Map 270, Lot 33 200 F.W. Hartford Drive Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Legg:

This letter transmits a City of Portsmouth Conditional Use Permit request for wetland and wetland buffer restoration on the above referenced property.

The property owners, David & Tracey Foster, desired to perform some landscaping improvements, and prior to performing any work, they referenced the "Citywide Wetlands/Prime Wetlands Map" posted on the City website.

Unfortunately, the "Citywide Wetlands/Prime Wetlands Map" is inaccurate as it depicts wetland located to the south of the existing home on the property, and no wetlands located to the north of the existing home, which is the area in which the Foster's wanted to make the desired improvements.

Following a site visit and a wetland delineation, I determined that disturbance had occurred within the wetland and wetland buffer on the subject lot, and as a result, this application provides a Restoration Plan to rectify the disturbance that occurred.

The area of impact includes 11,800 sq. ft. of disturbance to the wetland and wetland buffer. In an effort to provide as much information as possible, the estimated amount of fill that has been placed within the disturbed area is approximately 230 cubic yards of material. This amount was calculated from invoices provided to the Fosters, which are attached to this application for your use.

The Fosters have worked with our office to develop a Restoration Plan that I believe provides a quantity of plantings exceeding the original amount of vegetation which was removed, provides a planting schedule consisting of native species that will thrive on the site, and most importantly will restore the function of the subject wetland and wetland buffer.

Attached to this application is an Existing Conditions Plan, a Restoration Plan, a Restoration Plan Narrative, fill material invoices, and a photo log of the areas of disturbance.

This application was presented to the Portsmouth Conservation Commission on April 10, 2019 and was approved with the following stipulations:

- That only the amount of loam necessary to promote vegetative growth is used in the restoration of the disturbed area.
- Restoration Monitoring be performed at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> growing season, and if plant survival is below 80% the dead plants shall be replaced and a proposal for future monitoring be made.
- That the restoration including the proposed plantings be completed by July 15, 2019.

The Restoration Plan Narrative, which is attached, has been revised to reflect the above stipulations.

According to the City of Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance, *Article 10.1017.50 Criteria for Approval*, the proposal shall comply with the following criteria:

1. The land is reasonably suited to the use, activity or alteration.

The proposal is to implement a Restoration Plan that will restore functions to an area of wetland and wetland buffer that were inadvertently disturbed. I believe that the Restoration Plan maintains the spirit of Article 10.1010 of the Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance.

2. There is no alternative location outside of the wetland buffer that is feasible and reasonable for the proposed use, activity or alteration.

Since the disturbance has already occurred, there is no location outside of the wetland and/or wetland buffer that is feasible. However, I believe that the proposed restoration of the disturbed area is appropriate and will restore the functions of the wetland and wetland buffer.

3. There will be no adverse impact on the wetland functional values of the site or surrounding properties.

The Restoration Plan will have no impact to the functional values or surrounding properties, and in fact, will restore the functional values of the wetland and wetland buffer prior to the disturbance.

4. Alteration of the natural vegetative state or managed woodland will occur only to the extent necessary to achieve construction goals.

The Restoration Plan includes removal of fill to the limit of the original sub-soil and returning the sub soil to the original grade. The attached Restoration Plan Narrative provides a restoration sequence that shall be followed to ensure that the restoration is performed as designed and provides the results as intended.

5. The proposal is the alternative with the least adverse impact to areas and environments under the jurisdiction of this Section.

Since the disturbance has already occurred, there is no alternative with lesser impact. However, I believe that the proposed restoration of the disturbed area is appropriate and will restore the functions of the wetland and wetland buffer.

6. Any area within the vegetated buffer strip will be returned to a natural state to the extent feasible.

It is my belief that the submitted Restoration Plan will re-vegetate the vegetated buffer strip as it existed prior to the disturbance.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven D. Riker

NH Certified Wetland Scientist/Environmental Permitting Specialist Ambit Engineering, Inc.

Cc: David & Tracey Foster-Property Owners

#### WETLAND AND WETLAND BUFFER RESTORATION PLAN

FOR

#### David & Tracey L. Foster PROPERTY LOCATED AT 200 F.W. Hartford Drive, Portsmouth, NH April 11, 2019

#### Introduction

The intent of this plan is to provide the City of Portsmouth, and David & Tracey L. Foster, owners of property located at 200 F.W. Hartford Drive, Portsmouth, NH, with a Restoration Plan of the existing wetland and wetland buffer disturbance on the subject property.

The following plan is necessary to restore the wetland and wetland buffer areas to a condition better than what previously existed, provide vegetation to aid in stormwater management and treatment, and return the area to a functional component of the underlying wetland buffer. By following the proposed restoration plan, David & Tracey L. Foster will be able to restore the functionality of their property to its condition prior to the disturbance.

#### **Restoration Plan Sequence**

The proposed restoration shall follow the sequence listed below:

- Install silt soxx prior to any work in the restoration area. Silt soxx will remain in place until the restoration is complete, and all exposed soils are stabilized.
- Remove all fill (including fill piles) within the restoration area to the limit of original sub-soil and return sub soil to pre-existing grade.
- Remove all wood chips and woody debris before backfilling restoration area.
- Spread/backfill restoration area with organic soil/loam only as needed to achieve pre-existing grade. Spread organic soil/loam the minimum amount necessary to promote vegetative growth. Scarify organic soil/loam to promote vegetation establishment. Plant the disturbed wetland area

with "Rain Garden Mix" and plant the disturbed buffer area with "New England Wildlfower Mix" as noted on Wetland and Buffer Restoration Plan prepared by Ambit Engineering, Inc. dated February 27, 2019.

- Plant the disturbed wetland area the disturbed buffer area with the plants in the Buffer Planting Schedule depicted on the Wetland and Buffer Restoration Plan prepared by Ambit Engineering, Inc. dated February 27, 2019.
- Spread a weed free straw/hay mulch over the seeded areas to prevent erosion.
- The restoration including the proposed plantings be completed by July 15, 2019.
- Restoration Monitoring will be performed at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> growing season (Fall of 2020), and if plant survival is below 80% the dead plants shall be replaced and a proposal for future monitoring be made.
- The restoration area shall also be monitored following significant rain events for erosion and sediment control. Addition seed and or mulch should be added as needed to promote seed mix germination.

Seed mixes or equivalent can be obtained by the following suppliers:

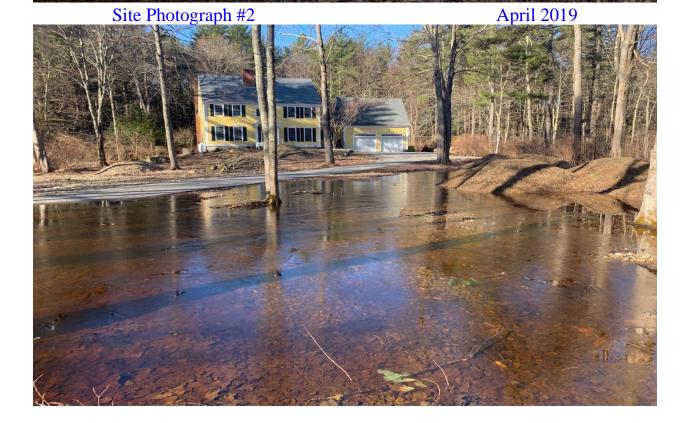
Pierson Nurseries 291 Waterhouse Road Dayton, ME 04005 207-499-2994

New England Wetland Plants 820 West Street Amherst, MA 01002 413-548-8000 NH DES Permit Application Foster Residence Restoration Plan

### SITE PHOTOGRAPHS Portsmouth, NH

Site Photograph #1

April 2019







Site Photograph #5 April 2019





# Invoice

# Macterials

90 Lovering Rd., North Hampton, NH 03862 (603) 997-1026

TO TRACET FOSTER

206 FL HARTFORD DR.

PORTSMOUTH NH

DATE

DESCRIPTION				
	12	LOADS	Scheened	Lorn
		<b>9</b> 9	350 ca	= 4200
	1	ADOMOUAL	LOADS	3 FILL
			4250 ea	- 900
Work orde	-	Taken		TOTAL: \$\\ 4,700\\ \$\\ 4,700\\ \$\\ \\ 4,700\\ \$\\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\

# Invoice

## MAC Construction/Excavation

90 Lovering Rd., North Hampton, NH 03862 (603) 997-1026

TO TRACY FOSTER

ZOO FU HARTEOND DE

PORTSMONTH NH

AN PERSONAL PROPERTY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY A		THE BEST RIVERSE	OFK DE
9 LOADS 3" FILL E "2500.	229	DELIVER FILL	
		TOTAL OTHER	AMOUNT
Work ordered by	\$ 2250	TOTAL LABOR TOTAL MATERIAL	
		TOTAL OTHERS	
		TOTAL	2,250

