



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Department of Fish and Game

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**OFFICE OF FISHING & BOATING ACCESS**

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John P. Sheppard, Director

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July 25, 2019

Ms. Isabel Tourkantonis - Director of Environmental Affairs  
Town of Billerica Conservation Commission  
365 Boston Road  
Billerica, MA 01821

RE: Proposed Concord River Boat Launch Facility, Billerica, MA – Project No. PA-347

Dear Ms. Tourkantonis,

On August 16, 2018 a meeting was held at the Billerica Town Hall to discuss concerns related to the development of a Public Access Boat Launch facility on the Concord River at 250 Boston Road, the present location of the Town of Billerica Department of Public Works property. The attendees included Mr. Michael Rosa, Town of Billerica Selectman; The Board of Selectmen Chairperson, Ms. Kim Conway; John Curran, Billerica Town Manager; and a number of the Town's Department heads, as well as yourself.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Land Management Agreement between the Town of Billerica and Department of Fish and Game, Office of Fishing and Boating Access (FBA). The agreement was approved and signed by the Town's Board of Selectmen on February 12, 2016, after a review by the Town's Legal Counsel, the Legal Counsel for the Department of Fish and Game, and John Curran, the Town Manager.

During the August 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, John Curran stated that a number of the Town's Departments had concerns about developing the 250 Boston Road site as a Public Access Boat Launch facility. One of their concern's is that launching a boat near the Town's pump station intake could potentially harm the municipal water system or possibly be the source of other unwanted activity. It should be noted that the new launch would be downstream of the pump station intake and all flow is being directed away from the pump house.

**RECEIVED**  
8/5/2019

It was also stated that the Town of Billerica is considering a different type of development for that parcel. It appears that there is a proposal before the Town to possibly develop the property as a residential, commercial or even mixed use development. However, in order to move forward with this proposal, the FBA would have to void the Land Management Agreement with the Town of Billerica.

The Town has offered an alternative site to be developed as a Public Access Boat Launch. This site consists of two parcels, totaling 1.44 acres and is located at 8 Carter Avenue. One of the parcels (Parcel A) contains 1.26 acres but does not abut the Concord River. The parcel which does abut the river (Parcel B) consists of a very narrow 0.18 acre lot. After conducting a site reconnaissance of these parcels and even trying to develop rough sketches for a new boat launch on the property, it is readily apparent that it would not be possible to construct a boat launch which could safely be used by recreational boaters. Since Parcel A does not abut the Concord River, it could not be considered for access. However, due to the long, narrow shape of Parcel B, backing a vehicle/trailer unit would be very difficult. In addition, a staging area, which would allow trailered vehicles to turn safely and back down the ramp could not be constructed due to the limited space. The parcels on Carter Ave. could not be used to develop a vehicle/trailer boat launch access into the Concord River. However, future development of this parcel as a canoe/cartop boat launch into the Concord River may be a possibility.

Another concern that was raised during our meeting was the time that had elapsed between the Town's signing of the Land Management Agreement and the preparation of plans and permit applications for filing. The following outlines the timeline for this project:

- |                             |   |  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| February 12, 2016           | - | Land Management Agreement signed   |
| February 17, 2016           | - | Request for Land Survey and Wetlands Delineation Proposals was issued In CommBuys.   |
| March 18, 2016              | - | Proposals Received (Only one proposal was received).   |
| April 21, 2016              | - | Request for Survey and Wetlands Delineation Proposals were re-issued. This time through CommBuys and outreach to local survey firms. |
| May 21, 2016                | - | Proposals Received.  |
| August 22, 2016             | - | Contract for Survey/Wetlands Delineation was executed.   |
| January 1, 2017             | - | Survey Plans/Wetlands Delineation Report was received.   |
| February 2, 2017            | - | Engineering Work Started.  |
| On or about May 15, 2017    | - | Preliminary Plans Developed.   |
| On or about August 15, 2017 | - | Final Plans and Revisions.   |

- On or about August 15, 2018 - Preparation of Design Calculations (Stormwater Management), Notice of Intent, with back up documentation and narratives.
- On or about September 15, 2018 - Conducted a Site Inspection of the Carter Ave. parcels and developed a proposed freehand schematic sketch for boat launch possibility.

The timeline noted above shows a continuous progression, and extensive expenditure of time, effort and costs by the FBA from February 2016 to August of 2017. An extensive boundary and topographic survey was conducted by A-Plus Construction Services Corp. In addition, a wetlands resource area delineation and report were also prepared. The cost of these services alone were \$19,800. These costs did not include fees for engineering services. Engineering design of this project was conducted in-house and included; development of plans, preparation of calculations, completion of permit applications and preparation of narratives and reports. Unfortunately, due to previous commitments made and construction projects which were on going between 2017 and 2018, work on the Concord River Boat Launch still progressed, but at a slower pace.

The Mass. Dept. of Fish and Game/Office of Fishing and Boating Access is committed to developing a recreational boat launch on the Concord River at 250 Boston Road in Billerica. Because of this, we would like to move forward with our proposal as outlined in the Land Management Agreement. The location of the new launch will be at the same location of an existing emergency access launch. This area is downstream of the pump station intake structure. The engineering design took into consideration the extensive amount of wetlands resources areas. All work was prepared to have minimal, if any, impact on these areas. The plans and supporting documents have been completed and are ready to be filed for permitting.

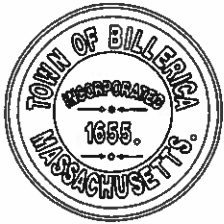
We hope this meets with the Town's approval and look forward to working with the Town of Billerica in the development of the Concord River Public Access Boat Launch Facility. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

*Anthony Stella, P.E.*

Anthony Stella, P.E.

Cc: Ron Amidon  
Jack Sheppard  
Doug Cameron



# BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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**Andrew N. Deslaurier, Chairman**  
**George J. Simolaris, Jr., Vice Chairman**  
**John J. Piscatelli, Secretary**  
**Daniel L. Burns, Member**  
**Kimberly J. Conway, Member**

July 6, 2016

Secretary Matthew Beaton  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Secretary Beaton:

The Town has been partnering with the Department of Fish and Game to find a suitable location along the Concord River for a public boat launch in Billerica since 2008. The Town is in full support of this endeavor under the provisions proposed by the Department of Fish and Game Land Management Agreement that it is to be funded, constructed and maintained by the Commonwealth and/or the Department of Fish and Game.

This project was previously earmarked in a Transportation Bond bill (2300-7016) in the amount of \$500,000.

In February 2016, the Town entered into a Land Management Agreement for the property at 250 Boston Road in Billerica for consideration of locating the launch and parking facility at this location. Due to the proximity of the water intake for our Town's Water Treatment Plant, our Department of Public Works and the Fire Department have raised some questions regarding potential security and health concerns regarding public access next to this public water resource and wish to learn more of what provisions and steps are to be implemented as part of this project to ensure its protection.

Sincerely

Andrew N. Deslaurier  
Chairman

cc: Governor Charles Baker  
Representative Marc Lombardo  
Senator Kenneth Donnelly

*America's Yankee Doodle Town*