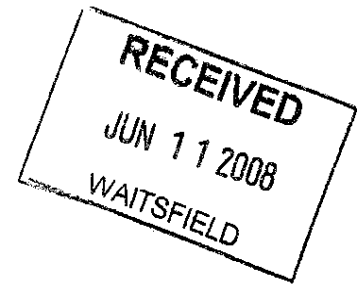


HELPS ENGINEERING, INC. • MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

200810

WAITSFIELD GRAVEL PIT
TOWN OF WAITSFIELD
MEETING NOTES FROM SITE VISIT
MAY 29, 2008, 12:00 NOON



Participants: Jonathan Ashley, Phelps Engineering
Stuart Grandfield, Town Road Foreman
Paul Hartshorn, Town Selectboard
Patrick Ross, Stream Alteration Section

Notes prepared by Jonathan Ashley

□ **General**

- J. Ashley provided P. Ross with a copy of the current draft project plans, a USGS map of the stream's watershed, and a table showing the mapped soil types in the project area.
- We reviewed and discussed the draft limits of excavation and proposed 50-foot+ buffers shown on the plans, the watershed size, and the proposed staging areas for stockpiling, crushing, etc.
- J. Ashley and P. Hartshorn indicated that the project will not be subject to Act 250 because the total involved area will be less than 10 acres.
- P. Ross indicated that because the project is not subject to Act 250, his only jurisdiction will be for a stream crossing permit. He can provide us with advice regarding appropriate stream buffers, but this will not be regulated at the State level because Act 250 permitting is not required.
- We visited the proposed western and eastern gravel pit sites, the access road, and the existing stream crossing location (see below).

□ **Western Gravel Pit Area**

- We observed the location and condition of the stream that passes to the east of this area from the top of the slope along the east edge of the proposed gravel pit.
- P. Ross observed that the stream has a well-established floodplain that looks like it is used, and not necessarily infrequently. He also observed that the steep embankment from the floodplain to the plateau of the gravel pit appears to be stable and contains several trees.
- P. Ross recommended not disturbing the steep slope and leaving an appropriate setback along the top of bank for slope stability.

□ **Eastern Gravel Pit Area**

- We observed the location and condition of the stream that passes to the west of this area from the top of the slope along the west edge of the proposed gravel pit.
- P. Ross observed that the stream is close to the base of the slope. He also observed that the steep embankment from the floodplain to the area of the gravel pit appears to be stable and contains several trees.
- P. Ross recommended not disturbing the steep slope and leaving an appropriate setback along the top of bank for slope stability.

□ **Stream Crossing**

- The existing access road to the western gravel pit area crosses a roughly north-south oriented section of the stream using two culverts. As evidenced by routine washouts, the culverts are undersized. The crossing is directly adjacent to the intersection of the stream with another stream channel.
- P. Ross expressed concern about the location of the existing stream crossing because the southwest edge of the road directly abuts the higher order stream channel, and the improvement and maintenance of the gravel pit access road would impact the stream.
- We went off the existing access road to the north and identified a potential stream crossing location that would move the road away from the higher order stream channel. Based on visual observations, it appears this new road alignment may be feasible.
- P. Ross discussed the Army Corps' current policy on crossing of stream channels of this size. To accommodate the passage of fish, the Army Corps currently uses the Ordinary High Water of a stream channel (the distance from the top of bank to top of bank) for sizing the stream crossing structure. In this possible new crossing location, P. Ross measured the distance to be 8.5 feet; therefore, the crossing in this location will likely require an 8.5-foot or larger structure such as a concrete box culvert or bridge.

□ **Existing Access Road**

- We reviewed the existing access road and its location relative to the stream.
- We reviewed the proposed road realignment on the Armstrong property. P. Ross and J. Ashley verified that more than a 50-foot buffer would be maintained between the proposed new road alignment and the edge of the stream (at the existing wooden bridge).

JA:kb

c: Valerie Capels, Town Manager
Meeting Participants