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TOWN OF FREETOWN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town Hall
3 North Main Street
P.O. Box 438
Assonet, Massachusetts 02702

November 8, 2005

Ms. Shelley Puleo, Mail Code C.M.U.
Environmental Protection Agency
One Congress Street, Suite 1100
Boston, MA 02114

NOV 15 2005

Dear Ms. Puleo:

On behalf of the Town of Freetown, I am pleased to submit the following progress report in regards to our efforts in meeting the Phase II E.P.A. Stormwater regulations.

At our Special Town Meeting held on November 7, 2005, voters approved an Article seeking Five Thousand ($5,000.00) to hire a consultant to assist the Town in meeting the stormwater goals. This is a major step forward, and we look forward to developing a further scope of work and hiring the consultant as soon as possible.

A conference group consisting of two members of the Conservation Commission, a Planning Board member, the Acting Highway Surveyor, the Assistant Assessor, one Selectman, and I held a meeting on Friday, November 4th to evaluate the Notice of Intent and Goals that were submitted to you previously, and to plot a strategy for the future. In reviewing the list of Minimum Control Measures, it was determined that we have made several note-worthy attempts to comply, as follows:

A map of the Town of Freetown had been given to the Acting Highway Surveyor, on which he could indicate the catch basins. Discussion was held relative to securing a G.P.S. to facilitate the task of mapping the basins. The company cleaning our catch basins will be contacted for assistance. Discussion was held on obtaining volunteer assistance.

The Acting Highway Surveyor cited several instances of his activities to unblock catch basins and drainage pipes in the Town. In a related matter, the recent heavy rainfall caused substantial difficulties with two of our local dams, the Monument Pond Dam and Forge Pond Dam in the Assonet section of Freetown. Personnel of the Fire Department

and Highway Department then worked with two members of the Office of Dam Safety to assess the situation, clear debris from the Pond areas, and secure the structures, thus easing the water flow and reducing future danger. While further research is being conducted to ascertain the definite owners of the dams, we feel the improvements made of vital importance in taking control of the precarious conditions.

Conservation Commission members are constantly aware of the stormwater regulations as they conduct inspections of various properties relative to the business of the Commission's meetings. The chairman of the Conservation Commission has attended Selectmen's meetings in the recent past to discuss meeting compliance with the stormwater regulations. Furthermore, the Soil Conservation Board, which oversees the Town's gravel operations, is also greatly aware of the Stormwater requirements. While by-laws are already in place relative to these two boards, an ongoing effort is being made to examine the by-laws to see if any revisions may be necessary.

In speaking with our Board of Health personnel about our regulations, the Town still requires a distance of 100 feet from a well to a septic tank. During the summer, the Board of Selectmen was designated to serve as Sewer Commissioners, and we have one new subdivision planned that will in fact have a municipal sewer system.

We have also made our Water Commission aware of the stormwater guidelines. Freetown is rather unique in that two city water suppliers (Fall River and New Bedford) service the water needs of some sections of town, while the remainder of the town is still serviced by private wells. A new pumping station has recently been constructed in the east end of town, and this will help to demonstrate our continued commitment to improving the Town's infrastructure of this nature.

Other ideas on which we are prepared to take action are as follows: We hope to more fully involve the teachers and students of our school system in the stormwater management program. Hopefully, the stormwater materials, particularly the information secured from the websites made known to us, could be incorporated into lesson plans. We are also preparing a flyer about the stormwater guidelines to be distributed at local businesses and mailed to residents via inclusion with the water bills and rubbish collection bills.

We have a Selectmen's meeting scheduled for Monday, November 14, 2005. During this meeting, we will have as our guests representatives from the Taunton Wild & Scenic River Study Committee, the Taunton River Watershed Association, and Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, (S.R.P.E.D.D.) We hope to discuss the Stormwater regulations and how they can be encompassed within the groups' goals, as well as hear the latest update relative to the Taunton River.

Among our other topics of discussion on Monday night: A Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant that we are being awarded in the amount of Twenty Thousand ($20,000.00) Dollars, and the formation of an Open Space Planning Committee. We feel these two factors will also help to channel our efforts in reaching compliance with the stormwater regulations.

On Tuesday, November 15, 2005, we are planning to meet with representatives of the mapping company that services our Assessors' Office. We hope to learn what "overlays" can be purchased to better plot these items directly on our Assessors' maps. Currently, we have the following maps at our disposal: Soil Types, Flood Map, Topography, Wetlands, Steep Slopes. We realize the value of being able to map our catch basins and the associated drainage and outfalls, and we will determine if a new layer of G.I.S. mapping can be obtained by way of a future Town Meeting vote.

We look forward to submitting further information in a timely manner relative to our progress. In the meantime, should you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me at 508-644-2201.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda H. Lynn Remedis

Linda H. Lynn Remedis
Administrative Assistant
Town of Freetown

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