



**Town of Hopkinton
Conservation Commission
18 Main Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748**

Tel.: 508 497-9757

Fax: 508 497-9702

www.hopkinton.org/town/government/departments/conservation/index.htm

Memorandum

Date: 10 March 2004

To: Board of Appeals

From: Brian D. Morrison, Chairman
Ellen M. Chagnon, Conservation Scientist

Re: Stagecoach Heights Comprehensive Permit
DEP File No. 188-1148

Copies:

The purpose of the memorandum is to update the Board of Appeals relative to the status of the Stagecoach Heights comprehensive permit filings with the Conservation Commission.

The applicant submitted a revised site plan and a partial response to the Commission's request for additional information on 23 February 2004, in preparation for the upcoming hearing continuation on 22 March 2004. That information currently is under review by Ms. Chagnon. Her initial review reveals that the applicant continues to refuse to provide answers and information relative to the Commission's requests under the Bylaw. In addition, the applicant has provided a geohydrologic analysis that does not address adequately the expected flows to the site wetlands and vernal pools.

It is the Commission's understanding, based on past experience relative to the Sanctuary Lane Chapter 40B filing, that an applicant is required to file under both the Wetlands Protection Act (Act) and the Town of Hopkinton Wetland Protection Bylaw (Bylaw). Following that, it is the Commission's responsibility to conduct reviews and hearings under both the Act and the Bylaw and to issue an Order of Conditions under the Act and a set of recommendations to the Board of Appeals under the Bylaw. The fact that the applicant refuses to provide additional information

that has been required as part of the Bylaw review makes it impossible for the Commission to provide recommendations to the Board at this time.

The major outstanding issues for this filing are the geohydrologic study relative to both surface water and groundwater flows to the site wetlands and vernal pools and the wildlife study relative to proposed construction within the vernal pool buffer zone. Following the next public hearing for the project, the Commission plans to hire a geohydrological consultant to review stormwater and groundwater recharge calculations as they relate to the vernal pools. This review is necessary under both the Act and the Bylaw.