



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



PAUL R. LEPAGE
GOVERNOR

PAUL MERCER
COMMISSIONER

April 6, 2017

In the matter of the Public Hearing on the Maine Turnpike Authority’s (MTA) Application for a Natural Resources Protection Act Permit (MEDEP #L-27241-TG-A-N)

Memorandum to File: Presiding Officer’s Site Visit on Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Purpose: The site visit was an opportunity for the Presiding Officer for the Public Hearing to view the site and the location of the proposed development and the protected natural resources which will be the subject of testimony at the public hearing.

The following people were present for the site visit:

DEP: Marybeth Richardson, Kevin Martin, Alison Sirois, Robert Green

Office of the Attorney General: Peggy Bensinger, Katherine Tierney

Applicant - MTA: Peter Mills, Joanna Tourangeau, Sarah Zagafos, Ralph Norwood

Intervenor - Coalition for Responsible Toll Collection: Scott Anderson, Joan Jarvis, Dean Lessard

All of the attendees met at the Wells Park-n-Ride at approximately 10:00 A.M. All boarded a MTA van to facilitate parking along the turnpike. The Van’s first stop was at the west side of the project site (southbound side of the turnpike) where the administration building and staff parking would be located. The site was partially covered with snow and ice.

As requested, the applicant had flagged the location of the proposed administration building, parking area, and the centerline of the access road that would lead out to Chase’s Pond Road. Flagging identifying protected natural resources (streams, wetlands, and significant vernal pools) was still hanging, allowing the attendees to observe the proposed project in relation to these resources and to abutting properties. The Presiding Officer and attendees surveyed site and walked up towards Chase’s Pond Road, noting how siting of the road was designed in relation to the wetlands and significant vernal pools.

The attendees were next driven to the site of the proposed amphibian crossing proposed at State Route 236, which is part of the mitigation proposed for the toll plaza project. While en route to State Route 236 and returning to turnpike, Department staff explained to the Presiding Officer that the proposed project includes the removal of the existing toll plaza with a portion of the

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York Toll Plaza Site Visit

April 6, 2017

Page 2 of 4

impervious area being returned to a natural state. Traveling northbound along the turnpike, MTA staff explained why the proposal includes the relocation of the drinking water trunk line that runs from the York Water District's Treatment Plant to the Town of York and parallel to the section of the turnpike that would be widened as a result of the proposed project. The van paused at the (northbound) location on the east side of the turnpike where a spotted turtle nest was discovered by staff from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife during a site visit in 2016. Spotted turtles were not previously documented on this side of the turnpike. The van then returned to the Wells Park-n-Ride.

Representative photos from the site visit can be found below:



Stream that runs parallel to the turnpike then turns westward into the woods.



Attendees walking along the west side of the project site.



Attendees examining the stake identifying one corner of the proposed administrative building.



Attendees following the centerline of the access road.

The site visit ended at approximately 12:30 P.M.

Submitted by Robert Green, DEP Project Manager