

January 25, 2024 Submission for 274 Big Alum Shoreline Wall Project

Upon the request of the Commission at the December 7, 2023 meeting and with the assistance of Becky Gendreau, Conservation Agent, I am submitting the following request for a **Shoreline Wall Project** at my permanent residence, 274 Big Alum Pond, Fiskdale.

WPA 10.56 and SWB 365-5.4 (Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF): This area represents 392 sq ft of an approximate 200 acre, 8,712,000 sq ft, pond. The water carrying/holding capacity within its banks is minimal. Its flood storage area will be increased to little affect.

WPA 10.56 and SWB 365-5.3 (Land Under Water): Approximately 22 yards of stone and building debris will be removed from the notch. The land under water in this area of Big Alum is a combination of rocks, small stones and sand. The boat notch bottom will be the same and will retain its pervious nature. With full waterflow restored, the notch will again provide a habitat for smaller feeder fish to hide as well as waterfowl to feed and shelter from boat traffic and severe weather.

WPA 10.54 and SWB 365-5.1 (Bank): This 400, plus, linear ft shoreline stretch of Big Alum banking is a combination of natural boulders/rocks and manmade stone retaining walls. The boat notch is 14 linear feet of manmade stone wall at its far end and 28 ft along its sides. The shoreline repair will consist of indigenous rocks and will retain its pervious nature. No excavation of surrounding land will occur.

SWB 365-1.1 and 365-4.13 (Jurisdiction, Protected Interest, General Restrictions, Waivers): This project requires the Commissions' approval as the work will occur

within the 25ft “No Disturb” area of Big Alum. As noted with materials presented on 12.7.2023 in support of this activity within the Sturbridge Bylaws:

- This boat notch is present on a 1923 DEP Big Alum Pond sounding map and shown in numerous pictures as foundation for a boat house; it is a **previously disturbed area**. It continues to be viable shoreline with some waterflow except during drawdown, but, this 792 sq ft area currently contains remains of a dilapidated boat house, trapped trash and sediment.
- The proposed project to clean out the notch and restore the shoreline walls will **improve the protection** to the main pond resource and prevent continued entrapment of trash, breakdown of foreign material and erosion of adjacent land.
- Clean up will be done with a “Catch and Release” Hydraulic Thumb by Ground Effects that can pick up the rocks and debris without excavation or damage to the lake bottom. There will be **no significant adverse impact** to the resource area. The contractor will work during a winter season upon drawdown, properly protecting the surrounding area, removing debris from the site, and restoring any disturbance to its pre-work condition.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia (Ginne) Roscioli