

Boston Groundwater Trust

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May 19th, 2023

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Stephen Harvey, Senior Project Manager
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: 500 Huntington Avenue Project Notification Form Comments

Dear Mr. Harvey:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 500 Huntington Avenue Project Notification Form (PNF) located in the Mission Hill neighborhood. The Boston Groundwater Trust (BGwT) was established by the Boston City Council to monitor groundwater levels in sections of Boston where the integrity of building foundations is threatened by low groundwater levels and to make recommendations for solving the problem. Therefore, my comments are limited to groundwater related issues.

As stated in the PNF the project site is located within the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) as outlined in Article 32 of the City of Boston Zoning Code.

The PNF also states that the Project will comply with the standards and requirements set forth in Article 32 of the Zoning Code.

The Proponent will obtain a written determination from the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) as to whether the Project meets the standards and requirements of Article 32. In addition, the Proponent will demonstrate that the Project meets the requirements of Section 32-6 of the Zoning Code by obtaining a stamped certification from a Massachusetts registered engineer that the requirements of Section 32-6 of the Zoning Code are met. The Proponent will provide both a copy of the written determination from BWSC and a copy of the stamped certification from a Massachusetts registered engineer to the BPDA and the Boston Groundwater Trust prior to the issuance of a Certification of Consistency. As such, the Project is designed in compliance with Article 32 of the Zoning Code.



In addition, the proponent shall ensure Trust observation well #20H-1428 (located in the sidewalk, on Ruggles Street, just in from the corner of Ruggles Street and Parker Avenue) will be preserved before, during, and following construction.

Also, in conjunction with the City of Boston's Green Infrastructure policy, we encourage the proponent to add permeable surfaces for City sidewalks where feasible.

I look forward to continuing to work with the proponent and the Agency to assure that this project can have only positive impacts on area groundwater levels.

Very truly yours,



Christian Simonelli
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BPDA
Maura Zlody, Environment Department
Katherine England, Director of Green Infrastructure

