

Boston Groundwater Trust

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June 9th, 2017

Michael Rooney, Project Manager
Boston Planning and Development Agency
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine Expanded
Project Notification Form Comments

Dear Mr. Rooney:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the expanded project notification form (EPNF) for the Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine. The Boston Groundwater Trust 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.

The project is located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code. As stated in the EPNF and confirmed at the scoping session the project is proposed to be designed and constructed to comply with the requirements of Article 32 to the greatest extent practicable. I look forward to working with the proponent to assure that full compliance is accomplished.

As stated in the EPNF and confirmed at the scoping session compliance with the GCOD requires both the installation of a recharge system and a demonstration that the project cannot cause a reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots. As stated in the EPNF and confirmed at the scoping session, the Project will result in no negative impact on groundwater levels to the greatest extent practicable and an engineers' certification report will be submitted to demonstrate that the standards have been met. I look forward to working with the proponent to assure that full compliance is accomplished. The EPNF also states that methods to assure these standards include use of fully waterproofed basement (walls and slab) for the portion of the structure that extends below groundwater levels and the project will have no long term groundwater pumping. In addition the proposed building addition includes one below-grade level. The foundation walls and basement mat slab will be waterproofed and supported on drilled mini-piles that extend into rock. The structure will not cause the groundwater to raise, pond or be lowered in the surrounding area. The Proponent will coordinate with the Boston Groundwater Trust (BGwT) in regard to groundwater monitoring prior to and during construction.

At the scoping session the Proponent also stated that the proposed project will investigate installing porous surfaces along sidewalks, adjacent to their property lines.

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christian S. Simonelli".

Christian Simonelli
Executive Director

CC: Kathleen Pederson, BPDA
Maura Zlody, BED