

Boston Groundwater Trust

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April 6th, 2018

Tim Czerwienski, Project Manager
Boston Planning & Development Agency
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201-1007

Subject: Kenmore Square Hotels Project Notification Form (PNF)
Comments

Dear Mr. Czerwienski:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Kenmore Square Hotels Project Notification Form (PNF) located in the Fenway. 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.

Although the project is not located in the Groundwater Conservation Overlay District (GCOD) established under Article 32 of the Zoning Code, the document states that the Project will be required to provide stormwater recharge in keeping with current Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) water quality policies. The document also states that with both projects abutting the GCOD, the inclusion of stormwater recharge should benefit the abutting GCOD area.

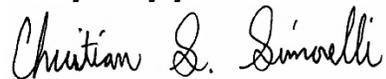
Compliance with the GCOD requires both the installation of a recharge system and a demonstration that the project cannot cause a reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots. As stated in the document the Project Area is not located within the GCOD, it is immediately adjacent to the GCOD boundary. There are piling supported buildings in the immediate vicinity of this boundary.

The PNF states that 651 Beacon Street parcel will have approximately 145 below grade spaces. This will extend many feet below the existing street grade. In addition, it is expected that the proposed structures will have deep foundations extending approximately 150-200 feet down to the bedrock layer. The foundation should be designed and constructed to not cause a reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots pre and post construction as if it were in the GCOD.

Before the zoning approval can be put in place, the proponent should provide the BPDA and the Trust a letter stamped by a professional engineer registered in Massachusetts that details how it will accomplish and meet the GCOD requirement for no reduction in groundwater levels on site or on adjoining lots.

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, EEOS