December 14, 2021

Mr. Brian Colleran, Chairman  
Newbury Conservation Commission  
12 Kent Way  
Byfield, Massachusetts 01922  

Re: The Governor’s Academy - Parker River Environmental Studies Building - Byfield, MA  
DEP File No. 050-1264 - MAI Project No. 8490

Dear Chairman Colleran and Members of the Commission:

On behalf of the Applicant, The Governor’s Academy (TGA), Meridian Associates, Inc. (MAI) hereby requests review by the Conservation Commission of updates that have been made to The Governor’s Academy’s Parker River Environmental Studies Building project since the Commission issued an Order of Conditions (OOC) for the project June 27, 2018. The OOC was subsequently extended by the Commission this past summer to June 27, 2024.

Since the original approval, minor changes have been made to the proposed building footprint, decking and materials. The building footprint has increased from 6,832+ SF to 7,032+ SF to accommodate the educational programing. However, the building height has been reduced in height. And significantly, the 1,040+ feet of stone dust pathways and retaining walls have been replaced with an elevated wooden pathway that is 600+ feet in length with very limited walls. Additionally, the stairs that were proposed straight down the slope from the building to the river have also been eliminated. The currently proposed project is detailed on a spite plan set dated December 3, 2021, and prepared by MAI, that is enclosed.

The Riverfront Area on the property totals 171,935 SF. As currently proposed, the project will permanently alter approximately 9,404 SF or 5.5 percent; which is about 51 percent of the approved Riverfront work. This total accounts for 809 SF in the inner 100’ riparian zone (conservatively including the short length of stone dust path remaining) and 8,595 SF in the 100’ to 200’ zone (PRESB building). This total allows for “exempt” activities such as the elevated unpaved pathway and stormwater basins.

The Commission has also issued and extended an OOC for the proposed seasonal dock in the Parker River. However, the dock design has not changed since that approval and is not being resubmitted at this time.

We respectfully request that this project update be reviewed by the Commission at its’ December 21st meeting.
Should you have any questions or require additional information in advance of the meeting, please contact me at (978) 804-9036.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

MERIDIAN ASSOCIATES, INC.

Mark E. Beaudry, PE
Vice President

Copy: Thomas Woodruff, Director of Facilities, TGA
MassDEP - NERO
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The Riverfront Area on the property totals 171,935 SF. As currently proposed, the project will permanently alter approximately 9,404 SF or 5.5 percent; which is about 51 percent of the approved Riverfront work. This total accounts for 809 SF in the inner 100’ riparian zone (conservatively including the short length of stone dust path remaining) and 8,595 SF in the 100’ to 200’ zone (PRESB building). This total allows for “exempt” activities such as the elevated unpaved pathway and stormwater basins.

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