

February 6, 2008

Jason Duda, Chair
Easthampton Planning Board
50 Payson Avenue
Easthampton, MA 01027

Reference: Touchstone Farm, West Street, Easthampton

Dear Mr. Duda:

I am writing you on behalf of the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) to provide our comments regarding the proposed site plans for the six lot subdivision proposed for Touchstone Farm on West Street in Easthampton. The committee was created in 1989 to address developments of regional impact that are proposed within the aquifer to ensure that drinking water resources remain safe for the more-than 60,000 people that it serves. The location for the proposed project is located within the newly delineated Maloney Well Zone II and will soon be regulated by an amended Easthampton Aquifer Protection District. As such, BAPAC has the following comments.

The proposed stormwater treatment system includes the creation of a swale around the perimeter of the property collecting sheet flow from the property. The swale drains to a detention basin with an infiltration trench. Although the infiltration trench is being constructed with pretreatment (vegetated swale), infiltration trenches are most appropriate for uncontaminated rooftop water in Zone IIs according to the Massachusetts DEP Stormwater Handbook. Infiltration trenches promote rapid infiltration of stormwater which reduces any potential for increased removal of pollutants through the detention basin. BAPAC recommends the proponent consider an alternative infiltration system that offers treatment appropriate for a Zone II.

Thank for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Charles Darling, Chair

cc: Stuart Beckley, Easthampton Planning Department
Tom Newton, Easthampton Water Department