

February 10, 2008

Anthony Petrucelli, Chair
Westfield Planning Board
City Hall
59 Court Street
Westfield, MA 01085

Reference: Timberline Tree Services, Root Road, Westfield

Dear Mr. Petrucelli:

I am writing you on behalf of the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) to provide our comments regarding the proposed site plan for Timberline Tree Services located on a 2 acre parcel on Lot D on Root Road in Westfield. The proponents consultant Bryan Balicki of Sage Engineering presented plans to BAPAC at their February 4, 2008 meeting. BAPAC is composed of representatives from the four jurisdictions in which the Barnes Aquifer is located. 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 proposed site plan includes the new construction of a 4,500 square foot metal building to be used as a garage and office for a tree services company. The business focuses primarily on the removal of large trees in dense neighborhoods. The remainder of the site will be used to short-term storage of graded logs until sale and transfer to mills for processing. The business owner Mr. Ed Rafus stated that there will be no maintenance of vehicles, fuel storage or refueling of vehicles on-site. Roughly $\frac{3}{4}$ of the site will be covered in a processed hardpack material to be used as a driveway, parking and storage area for the logs. A 60' wide paved tracking area will be placed at the driveway entrance. Stormwater will be managed and treated via two deep sump catchbasins located down the center of the hardpack driveway draining to a sediment forebay with a plunge pool and swale.

The following are our comments:

- All roadways, driveways, delivery and receiving locations, and material storage areas should be paved and bermed so that all stormwater runoff from these pollutant generating areas is directed to pre-treatment prior to infiltration. The proposed site plan allows direct infiltration through hardpacked gravel all over the site. BAPAC is primarily concerned with the potential hazard associated with ruptured and leaking hydraulic fluids, gasoline and oil from equipment used in the unloading and transfer of the logs.

- Locating catchbasins on unpaved surfaces is generally not recommended due to the high potential sediment loading. Without diligent removal of sediment from the basins on a regular basis, the sumps could feasibly fill to capacity after only a few storms.
- At BAPAC's meeting, Mr. Balicki stated that the catchbasins were draining to a Stormceptor for pretreatment prior to the infiltration system however the Stormceptor is not noted on the plans dated February 6, 2008. The presence of the Stormceptor should be confirmed and included in the plans approved for the Special Permit. A gate valve to isolate the infiltration system should also be installed to prevent contamination in the event of a hazardous material spill.
- There was some discussion about whether or not the garage portion of the facility would have a floor drain. If it is to have a floor drain, it should drain to a tight tank with pretreatment. Direct infiltration of a floor drain in a Zone II is prohibited under Title V and DEP's Underground Injection Control Program. If there is not to be a floor drain, a condition of the Special Permit to be recorded with the deed should state that there will not be any vehicle maintenance at this facility in perpetuity. The Special Permit should be specific to this owner and use. As a new construction facility, the Planning Board must consider future uses and operations that might occur under a change of owner if a garage is present and act to ensure permanent long-term protective measures are in place to reduce the risk of aquifer contamination.
- BAPAC recommends that the owner submit annual maintenance logs for the stormwater management system to the Westfield Water Resources Department.

Thank for your consideration and the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Michael Czerwiec
Vice-Chair

cc: Charles Darling, Water Resources Department
Bryan Balicki, Sage Engineering LLC
199 Servistar Industrial Way, Suite 2, Westfield, MA 01085