



CROSSMAN ENGINEERING

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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: James Lamphere
Town Planner

From: Lynda Rogers
Landscape Architect

Date: July 26, 2021

Re: Review of Screening Landscape Plan for High Street Solar Farm

In response to our Landscape Plan Review Memorandum dated July 16, 2021, Terraink Landscape Architecture and Planning of Arlington Massachusetts provided the following updated documents for review:

- Screening Planting, dated July 23, 2021
- Letter dated July 22, 2021 to Mr. Jim Lamphere, Town Planner, Hopkinton, RI

Upon review, we concur that the latest revised plan accurately denotes acceptable plantings needed to replace the complex plant habitat which has been destroyed and recommend approval.



TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: James Lamphere
Town Planner

From: Lynda Rogers
Landscape Architect
Crossman Engineering

Date: July 16, 2021

Re: Review of Screening Landscape Plan for High Street Solar Farm

Crossman Engineering received the following documents in response to our Landscape Review Memo of May 10, 2021:

- Screening Planting, dated Revision 1 05-26-2021 by Terraink Landscape Architecture and Planning of Arlington Massachusetts
- Letter dated July 1, 2021 to Mr. Jim Lamphere, Town Planner, Hopkinton, RI

Following is a summary of our remaining comments:

1. The restoration area near High Street has been improved but we recommend more shade trees be provided to promote understory growth. CE suggests an addition of more native Red Maples, Oaks, Tupelo or Beech to be more representative of what has been removed.
2. The proposed New England Erosion Control seed mix lacks benefits to bees and other insects as well as hummingbirds. New England native wildflower seed mix should be used (at least in part) for hydroseeded areas to benefit wildlife. The seed mix should include appropriate grasses that will not overtake the wildflower seed, and a maintenance schedule should be provided. Meadows do require occasional mowing to promote establishment, particularly in the first year.
3. The proposed plantings leave large areas of open area meadow instead of original woodland. We recommend that more shrubs and Red Maples to make the area less open. Use more shrubs with berries to provide food for wildlife, such as Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), and Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* and *angustifolia*).

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: James Lamphere
Town Planner

From: Lynda Rogers
Landscape Architect
Crossman Engineering

Date: May 10, 2021

Re: Review of Screening Landscape Plan for High Street Solar Farm

Crossman Engineering has been retained to perform an independent review of the proposed landscaping plan at the High Street Solar project in Ashaway, Rhode Island. The purpose of this review is to determine if the planting plan reflects adequate replacement of the existing woodland removed during the construction clearing.

Terraink Landscape Architecture and Planning of Arlington Massachusetts has provided Crossman Engineering (CE) with the following documents for review:

- Screening Planting, dated April 22, 2021

Following is a summary of our observations/comments on the material received:

1. ***The proposed erosion control grass does not have the same diverse benefits for wildlife as that which existed in the previous woodland setting.***
Native Hay-Scented Ferns (*Dennstaedtia punctiloba*) and Orange Daylilies (*Hemerocallis fulva*), are two suggestions for natural masses of groundcover. These spread into masses naturally. Blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolia*) and Bearberry (*Arctosphyllus uva-ursi*) are small shrubs for natural groundcover. It is advised that some masses of these plants are added to promote part of the native understory where they have been removed, as found in the local woods.
2. ***The proposed New England Erosion Control seed mix lacks benefits to bees and other insects as well as hummingbirds.***
New England native wildflower seed mix should be used (at least in part) for hydroseeded areas to benefit wildlife. The seed mix should include appropriate grasses that will not overtake the wildflower seed, and a maintenance schedule should be provided. Meadows do require occasional mowing to promote establishment, particularly in the first year.

3. ***The proposed plantings leave large areas of open area meadow instead of woodland. This impacts wildlife by providing less cover and food found in wooded areas.*** Provide more shrubs and Red Maples to make the area less open. Use more shrubs with berries to provide food for wildlife, such as Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*), Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), and Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum* and *angustifolia*).
4. ***Eastern Red Cedars were difficult to procure for projects in 2020.***
CE would advise using White Pine (*Pinus strobus* 7' - 8' height, 12' o.c.) in lieu of Eastern Red Cedar. White Pines offer denser screening. Add Evergreen trees to the inner boundary line of the proposed planting area, parallel to High Street as screening.

Summary:

The landscape plan dated April 22, 2021 does not make a good representation of the existing woodland that has been cleared. The aforementioned revisions to the design will help to form a more accurate re-creation of the removed woodland, provide more cover and food for wildlife.