



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

August 26, 2022

Regulatory Division
File No. NAE-2017-01406

Ms. Brona Simon
Executive Director and SHPO
Massachusetts Historical Commission
The Massachusetts State Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Dear Ms. Simon,

We are reaching out to you because we recently learned of a design change to the Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability and Massachusetts Central Rail Trail Project. The applicants, Eversource and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), submitted a design change to our office on August 23, 2022. This change realigns a section of proposed rail trail in front of the Section Tool House so that 40 linear feet of railroad tracks can be preserved in front of the Section Tool House. Please see the enclosed simulated images and project plans that depict this change.

During Phase I, Eversource will endeavor to entirely avoid the tracks immediately in front of the Section Tool House during construction. However, complete avoidance of the tracks cannot be determined until the contractor is working in that location. If the tracks cannot be avoided, they will be removed and reset upon completion of the proposed work. The first option would completely avoid adverse effects to the Section Tool House while the second option would not result in a change to the previously determined adverse effect of removing rails and ties along the length of the CMRRCHD. Regardless of which option is pursued, the location of exclusionary fencing to protect the Section Tool House and its platform would not change.

After reviewing the design change and taking note of the two options above, the USACE has determined that adverse effects from the overall project would not change and a modification to the MOA is not necessary. The USACE will update the Historic Properties Avoidance and Protection Plan (HPAPP) to remove language of the prior design and to include the re-design of rail trail in front of the Section Tool House. The July 29, 2022 MOA and updated HPAPP are enclosed for your review.

Additionally, to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are inviting the Sudbury Historic Districts Commission (SHDC) to sign the enclosed MOA as a concurring party. As the project is located within the George Pitts Tavern Historic District, we would like to extend the SHDC with an opportunity to sign the MOA

as a concurring party. On August 4, 2022, the SHDC issued a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for the project with the incorporated design change.

Due to the design change and inclusion of the SHDC as a consulting party, we are extending the deadline for signature of the MOA until **September 12, 2022** for all consulting parties. Please return one signed copy of the MOA to this office. Upon receipt of signatures, we will return a fully executed copy.

We appreciate your engagement with our office during the Section 106 consultation process. If you have any questions, please contact Katelyn Rainville, the USACE Regulatory Project Manager, at katelyn.m.rainville@usace.army.mil or 978-318-8677 or Marc Paiva our New England District Archaeologist/Tribal Liaison at marcos.a.paiva@usace.army.mil or 978-318-8796. You may also contact me at paul.m.maniccia@usace.army.mil or 978-318-8515.

Sincerely,

Paul Maniccia

Paul M. Maniccia
Chief, Permits & Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division

Enclosures

Section Tool House Simulated Photos
Final Memorandum of Agreement July 29, 2022
Revised Historic Properties Avoidance & Protection Plan

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