



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

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19 September 2019

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Via email: acsinfo@yahoo.com

Dr. Gregory F. Walwer
Director, Archaeological Consulting Services (ACS)
118 Whitfield Street
Guilford, CT 06437

Re: Report titled *Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey of the Green Development – Beaver River Road Solar Farm in the Town of Richmond, Rhode Island*

Dear Dr. Walwer:

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission (RIHPHC) staff has reviewed the above-referenced report, which presents the results of a Phase I archaeological survey that your firm, ACS, conducted on behalf of Green Development, LLC of the Beaver River Road Solar Farm project area in Richmond. RIHPHC has accepted this report, which fulfills reporting requirements of the state archaeological permit (Permit# 19-16) under which your firm worked. We offer the following comments in regard to the report's findings and recommendations.

The survey results demonstrate that the project area contains a low density of pre-Contact Period Native American cultural material, designated the Stamp Site (RI 2795). RIHPHC agrees that further archaeological investigation of the Stamp Site is not warranted because of its low information content.

The survey also identified a post-Contact Period archaeological site, designated the Jamesford Outbuildings Site (RI 2796). This site represents archaeological remnants of the core of the historic Jamesford farmstead and may contain significant information regarding the history of dairy agriculture in Rhode Island. RIHPHC concurs with the recommendation to preserve the Jamesford Outbuilding Site *in situ*, and agrees that any agricultural activity continued thereon should avoid plowing soil deeper than 25 centimeters to insure continued preservation of buried archaeological features (e.g. cellars, barn footings, wells). RIHPHC also agrees with the report's recommendation to set the project's vegetative screening back 40 meters from Beaver River Road in the vicinity of the Jamesford Outbuildings Site to ensure that the site is not damaged by planting operations. If the project cannot accommodate *in situ* preservation of the Jamesford Outbuilding Site through the aforementioned measures, RIHPHC agrees that a Phase II archaeological survey should be conducted to evaluate its eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a further project planning element.

The survey also recorded the house at 172 Beaver River Road, which, in addition to representing an above-ground component of the Jamesford Outbuildings Site, was identified in 1977 as contributing to the proposed NRHP Beaver River Road Historic District (*State of Rhode Island, Preliminary Survey*

Report: Richmond, RIHPHC 1977). RIHPHC agrees that this house should be preserved *in situ*, though it appears to be in a state of declining repair. Accordingly, RIHPHC agrees that a state-level architectural history survey should be conducted to assess the house's integrity as a historic property and clarify its relation to the greater historic Jamesford farmstead as a further project planning element.

These comments are provided in an advisory capacity, as it is our understanding that the Beaver River Road Solar project is a private undertaking that does not fall under RIHPHC's regulatory purview. If you have any questions, please contact RIHPHC Principal Archaeologist Timothy Ives at 401-222-4139 or timothy.ives@preservation.ri.gov.

Sincerely,



J. Paul Loether
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: John Brown IV, Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (tashtesook@aol.com)
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