



June 28, 2023

Office of the Select Board
Town of Seabrook
99 Lafayette Road
Seabrook, NH 03874

**Re: Andover Street Town of Seabrook Right-of-Way
Andover Street (Tax Map 21 Lot 22-23)
Seabrook, New Hampshire 03874**

Dear Members of the Town of Seabrook Select Board:

Mission Wetland and Ecological Services, LLC (Mission), on behalf of the Town of Seabrook, is hereby submitting this letter to support the impending Andover Street Town Right of Way (ROW) sand dune restoration permitting and above-referenced duly approved sand dune habitat restoration efforts in this vicinity. Several past Seabrook sand dune habitat restoration projects have already been completed and there are several in the pipeline so it should come as no surprise that the coastal Seabrook sand dune ecosystem is an invaluable Seabrook landmark and resource. As you know, on behalf of the Town of Seabrook and in association with Henry Boyd, Jr., LLS of Millennium Engineering, Inc (MEI), Mission will be undertaking the required permitting efforts for the Andover Street Town Right-of-Way (ROW) on a pro-bono basis, again, to complement and optimize the approved sand dune habitat restoration efforts to improve and enhance the function and value of this sand dune ecosystem in this quaint coastal neighborhood for decades to come. As you are aware, the two projects located to the north (Lot 14) and south (Lot 9) of the Andover Street ROW have been fully vetted, endorsed, and approved by Local and State regulatory authorities.

There are few items that we would like to undertake as part of the impending permitting associated with the Town of Seabrook ROW sand dune restoration components of the Andover Street ROW. Specifically, the removal of a subject eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) tree, several other non-native Austrian pines (*Pinus nigra*), and other invasive plants located on the Town of Seabrook sand dune area and ROW will optimize the available resources to increase the probability of greater success of this sand dune habitat restoration and the adjacent restoration efforts. During the site walk held with Henry Boyd of MEI and the Town of Seabrook Select Board in the Spring of 2023, a few members of the Select Board expressed their desire to keep these trees remaining in the ROW. However, it is Mission's opinion that the removal of the eastern red cedar tree and those non-native Austrian pine trees will allocate full solar and spatial resources and optimize infiltration rates for greater success and rapid germination and subsequent propagation by rhizomatous tissue (root networks) of the American beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*) plantings. This will effectively allow for increased armoring of these plants during coastal storm events with heavy wind and rain and allow the American beachgrass to capitalize on their function to buffer coastal storm events and attenuate forceful winds to the sand dune itself. Lastly, the removal thereof will also decrease the potential for property damage to the homeowners in the area. The property damage may result from coastal storm events and winds

uprooting these very shallow-rooted trees and subsequently falling onto refurbished dwellings in the vicinity.

The removal of this non-native vegetation and their root systems will facilitate proliferation of flourishing American beachgrass community and promote full solar radiation as well as other resources to optimize vegetative growth. While I appreciate that the removal of these subject trees may temporarily displace frequently encountered suburban songbirds, this work can be conducted at a time outside of the nesting season, as to not compromise the viability of any eggs and/or rearing of any chicks. Not only will the removal of the trees facilitate the establishment of a flourishing American beachgrass community, as is typically the case with these sand dune restoration projects, Mission anticipates recruits and volunteers of protected rare, threatened, and endangered plant species may colonize these areas given the adjacent seed source. Thus, in turn this habitat may become breeding, nesting, feeding, rearing, and/or foraging habitat for some of the frequently encountered shorebirds.

In summary, it is the position of Mission that the functions and values of these restored sand dune habitat areas will be fully realized with the removal of the subject eastern red cedar tree and the non-native Austrian pine trees in the Andover Street ROW. The NHDES has already approved the removal of the invasive, non-native Austrian pines to the rear of Lot 9 on Town property, an area that will flourish with the sand dune habitat restoration and advancement of the protected species plant communities in what will become open sand dune habitat mixed with American beachgrass. The aesthetic values, storm buffering capacity, and wildlife habitat will enhance the food chain dynamics of this area of the Town property. These sand dune habitat restoration efforts located to the (Lot 14) and south (Lot 9) are substantial efforts to give back to the Town invaluable sand dune habitat, so it makes ecological and logistical sense to thread these two approved coastal sand dune restoration efforts together with the impending sand dune habitat restoration efforts of the Andover Street ROW, including the removal of these trees. Moreover, this may alleviate a potential safety and property damage issue.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or if you require any additional information. We appreciate your time, consideration, and patience and look forward to your approval to remove these subject trees.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mission Wetland & Ecological Services, LLC



Sergio Bonilla, PWS, CWS, CESSWI
Principal Wetland Ecologist

Cc: Eben Lewis, Southeast Region Supervisor – NHDES Wetlands Bureau
Ashley Litwinenko, Environmental Reviewer – Natural Heritage Bureau
Judie Walker, Seabrook Conservation Commission – Town of Seabrook