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August 22, 2018

EXHIBIT 16

AUG 24 2018

PLANNING BOARD  
GRAFTON, MA

Joseph Laydon  
Town Planner  
Grafton Municipal Center  
30 Providence Road  
Grafton, MA 01519

**Re: Knowlton Farms Solar Development (Pilot Project), 43 Estabrook Ave.  
Special Permit, Site Plan, Stormwater Management Regulations and Wetland Regulations Review**

Dear Mr. Laydon and Ms. Mast:

We are in receipt of an email from Rachel Benson dated August 21, 2018 at 1:21pm in regards to the project referenced above.

Meridian Associates, Inc. offers the following responses to the comments:

- Plan sheet 3, Note 9 states that this project will be utilizing the O&M for 44 Estabrook but a separate one was submitted. Can you please advise as to which one should be used for 43 Estabrook?

**Response: The note has been revised to reference the Operation and Maintenance Plan for 43 Estabrook Avenue.**

- Plan sheet 4, Note 3 under construction notes, makes reference to "Boston Post Road", please update to reference the Town of Grafton.

**Response: The note has been revised to reference Estabrook Avenue.**

- The narrative states that "vertical growing structures" will be hung from the top & bottom of the panels, is there a detail that shows what this device will look like?

**Response: There is no detail available at this time. The hanging structures that would be used, would be similar to the hanging herb pouches that are available at most home and garden stores.**

- The total electricity generated needs to be updated; 240 kWAC/332 kWDC (narrative) or 250 kWAC/331 kWDC (plan).

**Response: The narrative has been revised to state 250 kWAC/331 kWDC.**



- Can you also provide clarification as to the listed 840 - 395 watt solar **panels** (narrative) or the 840 **modules** (plan) or 848 **tables** (Sheet 3)?

**Response: The plans have been revised to state that the project is comprised of 840 panels.**

- Again this O&M indicates that a "Solar Farm Seed Mix" will be utilized for surface stabilization. Will that mix still be used and is it suitable for growing crops? If this seed mix will not be used an updated O&M plan will need to be submitted.

**Response: The seed mix within the solar array would be a standard farm field mix. Additionally, cover crops would be planted and in place during winter months.**

- Both O&M plans reference Cape Road for the location of the construction tracking pads, please update to reference the Town of Grafton.

**Response: The Operation and Maintenance Plans have been revised accordingly.**

- Under "Removal of Sedimentation..." in the O&M plan references the "Town of Mendon", please update to reference Grafton.

**Response: The Operation and Maintenance Plans have been revised accordingly.**

- Can you provide additional information as to the collaboration with BlueWave/Knowlton Family and the UMass Agricultural Extension Program such as any programmatic information, contact information at the school and if there is a contract between the two? If this is part of a professor's research there should be some documentation as to the intended outcomes and progress measurements.

**Response: There is not a formal program in place yet, however it is the intent that UMass will not have a significant presence on site. As detailed information regarding the collaboration becomes available, it will be provided to the town.**

- Will this collaboration with UMass add any additional trips to the site? There are some articles about other similar "dual-use" UMass extension research programs in Deerfield, MA that show research assistants tending to crops and gathering data.

**Response: It is estimated that there will be one (1) vehicular trip to the site per week, aside from the land owner tending to the crops.**

- Can you provide the "Land Lease" agreement signed by both the Applicant and Owner? If there is not one in place, we will request a surety in an amount not to exceed 125% of the cost of removal (cost of removal to be prepared by the Town's peer consultant). If in



the case of 44 Estabrook Ave BlueWave is still working on this document, they will be required to submit prior to the start of any construction which will be conditioned in the Decision.

**Response: As previously discussed, a land lease will be provided prior to the issuance of a building permit.**

- The narrative states there are 2 - 10' wide gates but 3 are shown, please update narrative/plan to match what is anticipated to be installed.

**Response: The narrative has been revised to state that there are three (3) ten (10) foot wide gates.**

Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

**MERIDIAN ASSOCIATES, INC.**

*David S. Kelley*

David S. Kelley, P.E.  
Senior Project Engineer

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cc: Estabrook Valley, LLC