Full Environmental Assessment Form

Part 3 - Evaluation of the Magnitude and Importance of Project Impacts and Determination of Significance

Part 3 provides the reasons in support of the determination of significance. The lead agency must complete Part 3 for every question in Part 2 where the impact has been identified as potentially moderate to large or where there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action will not, or may, result in a significant adverse environmental impact.

Based on the analysis in Part 3, the lead agency must decide whether to require an environmental impact statement to further assess the proposed action or whether available information is sufficient for the lead agency to conclude that the proposed action will not have a significant adverse environmental impact. By completing the certification on the next page, the lead agency can complete its determination of significance.

Reasons Supporting This Determination:
To complete this section:
- Identify the impact based on the Part 2 responses and describe its magnitude. Magnitude considers factors such as severity, size or extent of an impact.
- Assess the importance of the impact. Importance relates to the geographic scope, duration, probability of the impact occurring, number of people affected by the impact and any additional environmental consequences if the impact were to occur.
- The assessment should take into consideration any design element or project changes.
- Repeat this process for each Part 2 question where the impact has been identified as potentially moderate to large or where there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action will not, or may, result in a significant adverse environmental impact.
- Provide the reason(s) why the impact may, or will not, result in a significant adverse environmental impact.
- For Conditional Negative Declarations, identify the specific condition(s) imposed that will modify the proposed action so that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result.
- Attach additional sheets, as needed.

The Adoption of the Pierson Marsh Reserve Management Plan is intended to achieve the following four goals over the next ten years: 1) maintain or enhance the marsh’s ability to provide storm protection for neighboring landowners; 2) sustain the presence of native marsh communities and the biological diversity they support; 3) promote the structural and functional resiliency of the marsh to storms, sea-level rise, and other disturbances; and 4) increase scientific knowledge, public understanding, and public use and enjoyment of the marsh. The plan identifies objectives and preferred strategies for wetland restoration, climate resilience, habitat management, research, monitoring, public access, and education and interpretation over the next decade.

The plan recommends various actions to benefit natural resources within the Reserve. A large buffer of more than 200 acres of unmanaged marsh will be retained to provide storm protection for neighboring landowners. Priority ecological communities will be restored on up to 40-acres (approximately 15% of the entire marsh) by reducing the abundance of non-native invasive Phragmites australis. The restoration area, located more than one half mile from neighboring residential areas, will be restored in 3 success-dependent phases over the next 10 years, beginning with a 10 acre unit. If Phase 1 is successful in restoring native communities and meeting other performance benchmarks, then 2 adjoining 15 acre units will be restored (successively) in the following years. In each unit, Phragmites will be controlled using a combination of methods including mowing, solarization, and a limited ground-based application of a registered aquatic herbicide (glyphosate formulation) and non-ionic surfactant. After analysis, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) determined that the proposed wetland restoration will not result in increased erosion or affect the water quality of any water bodies within or downstream of the site for the following reasons: 1) vegetation management will occur on slopes <2%; 2) the project will be implemented in multiple adaptive phases to reduce the amount of marsh disturbed in any given year; and 3) mowed vegetation will function as mulch until treated areas naturally revegetate within 1-3 years. Furthermore, when applied at the appropriate concentrations following label instructions, the proposed herbicide does not pose a significant risk to human health, fish, or other aquatic animals as determined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, NYS DEC, and the New York State Department of Health.

Although the Reserve is near several historic resources, including the First Reformed Church of Pierson and the Sparkill Creek Drawbridge, no historic resources have been identified within the Reserve boundary. As such, the adoption of the Pierson Marsh Reserve Management Plan will have no impact on historic and archaeological resources. The Village of Pierson designated two Critical Environmental Areas (CEA) in or adjacent to the Reserve, namely Sparkill Creek and Pierson Pier. No actions are proposed in the plan that will significantly impact the quantity or quality of open space or aesthetic beauty of these resources, which was the basis for the CEA designations.

The intent of the plan is to protect and enhance natural resources within the Reserve, and promote their longevity for the enjoyment and well-being of the people. NYS DEC, as lead agency, has evaluated the magnitude, importance, duration, and scale of adverse impacts related to adoption of the plan and determined them to be small. NYS DEC finds that adoption and subsequent implementation of the recommendations in the plan would have positive impacts on the environment and benefit rare and declining flora and fauna. As such, an environmental impact statement shall not be prepared.

Determination of Significance - Type 1 and Unlisted Actions

| SEQR Status: | ☑ Type 1 | ☐ Unlisted |
| Identify portions of EAF completed for this Project: | ☑ Part 1 | ☑ Part 2 | ☑ Part 3 |
Upon review of the information recorded on this EAF, as noted, plus this additional support information

and considering both the magnitude and importance of each identified potential impact, it is the conclusion of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as lead agency that:

☑️ A. This project will result in no significant adverse impacts on the environment, and, therefore, an environmental impact statement need not be prepared. Accordingly, this negative declaration is issued.

☐ B. Although this project could have a significant adverse impact on the environment, that impact will be avoided or substantially mitigated because of the following conditions which will be required by the lead agency:

There will, therefore, be no significant adverse impacts from the project as conditioned, and, therefore, this conditioned negative declaration is issued. A conditioned negative declaration may be used only for UNLISTED actions (see 6 NYCRR 617.d).

☐ C. This Project may result in one or more significant adverse impacts on the environment, and an environmental impact statement must be prepared to further assess the impact(s) and possible mitigation and to explore alternatives to avoid or reduce those impacts. Accordingly, this positive declaration is issued.

Name of Action: Adoption of Piermont Marsh Reserve Management Plan

Name of Lead Agency: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency: Betsy Blair

Title of Responsible Officer: Regional Marine Habitat Manager, DEC Regions 3 and 4

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency: Betsy Blair

Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer) Brian DeGasperis

For Further Information:

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For Type 1 Actions and Conditioned Negative Declarations, a copy of this Notice is sent to:

Chief Executive Officer of the political subdivision in which the action will be principally located (e.g., Town / City / Village of)

Other involved agencies (if any)

Applicant (if any)