

# Request for Determination of Applicability

Proposed Bridge Preservation  
Bridge No. R-10-006  
Zoar Road over Sam Rice Brook

August 7, 2025



Applicant:  
Town of Rowe  
Brooke Shulda, Town Admin.  
Town Hall, 321 Zoar Road  
Rowe, MA 01367



Representative:  
Gill Engineering  
1234 Chestnut Street  
Newton, MA 02464

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## **WPA FORM 1**

**Request for Determination of Applicability****Bridge No. R-10-006 Preservation****Zoar Road over Sam Rice Brook****Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection**

Bureau of Water Resources - Wetlands

**WPA Form 1- Request for Determination of Applicability**

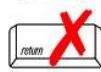
ROWE

Municipality

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

**A. General Information**

**Important:**  
When filling out  
forms on the  
computer, use only  
the tab key to move  
your cursor - do not  
use the return key.

**1. Applicant:**

TOWN OF ROWE

First Name

Last Name

TOWN HALL, 321 ZOAR ROAD

Address

ROWE

MA

01367

City/Town

State

413-339-4335

Zip Code

Phone Number

Email Address

**2. Property Owner (if different from Applicant):**

First Name

Last Name

Address

City/Town

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Email Address (if known)

**3. Representative (if any)**

DANIEL

CROVO

First Name

Last Name

GILL ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES, INC.

Company Name

1234 CHESTNUT STREET, SUITE 207

Address

NEWTON

MA

02464

City/Town

State

Zip Code

781-355-7100

dcrovo@gill-eng.com

Phone Number

Email Address (if known)

**B. Project Description****1. a. Project Location (use maps and plans to identify the location of the area subject to this request):**

244 ZOAR ROAD

ROWE

Street Address

City/Town

42.61767

-72.84197

Latitude (Decimal Degrees Format with 5 digits after decimal  
e.g. XX.XXXXX)

Longitude (Decimal Degrees Format with 5 digits after decimal e.g. -XX.XXXXX)

203 0 008

54

Assessors' Map Number

Assessors' Lot/Parcel Number

**b. Area Description (use additional paper, if necessary):**

SEE ATTACHMENT A - PROJECT NARRATIVE

**c. Plan and/or Map Reference(s): (use additional paper if necessary)**

SEE ATTACHMENT B - BRIDGE REPAIR PLANS

8/7/2025

Title

Date

BRIDGE NUMBER R-10-006 PRESERVATION REPAIRS

8/7/2025

Title

Date

How to find Latitude  
and Longitudeand how to convert  
to decimal degrees

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**B. Project Description (cont.)**

2. a. Activity/Work Description (use additional paper and/or provide plan(s) of Activity, if necessary):

**SEE ATTACHMENT A - PROJECT NARRATIVE**

b. Identify provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act or regulations which may exempt the applicant from having to file a Notice of Intent for all or part of the described work (use additional paper, if necessary).

**SEE ATTACHMENT A - PROJECT NARRATIVE**

3. a. If this application is a Request for Determination of Scope of Alternatives for work in the Riverfront Area, indicate the one classification below that best describes the project.

- Single family house on a lot recorded on or before 8/1/96
- Single family house on a lot recorded after 8/1/96
- Expansion of an existing structure on a lot recorded after 8/1/96
- Project, other than a single-family house or public project, where the applicant owned the lot before 8/7/96
- New agriculture or aquaculture project
- Public project where funds were appropriated prior to 8/7/96
- Project on a lot shown on an approved, definitive subdivision plan where there is a recorded deed restriction limiting total alteration of the Riverfront Area for the entire subdivision
- Residential subdivision; institutional, industrial, or commercial project
- Municipal project
- District, county, state, or federal government project
- Project required to evaluate off-site alternatives in more than one municipality in an Environmental Impact Report under MEPA or in an alternatives analysis pursuant to an application for a 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or 401 Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Protection.

b. Provide evidence (e.g., record of date subdivision lot was recorded) supporting the classification above (use additional paper and/or attach appropriate documents, if necessary.)

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**C. Determinations**

1. I request the ROWE make the following determination(s). Check any that apply:  
Conservation Commission

- a. whether the **area** depicted on plan(s) and/or map(s) referenced above is an area subject to jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act.
- b. whether the **boundaries** of resource area(s) depicted on plan(s) and/or map(s) referenced above are accurately delineated.
- c. whether the **Activities** depicted on plan(s) referenced above is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations.
- d. whether the area and/or Activities depicted on plan(s) referenced above is subject to the jurisdiction of any **municipal wetlands' ordinance or bylaw** of:

Name of Municipality

- e. whether the following **scope of alternatives** is adequate for Activities in the Riverfront Area as depicted on referenced plan(s).

**D. Signatures and Submittal Requirements**

I hereby certify under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing Request for Determination of Applicability and accompanying plans, documents, and supporting data are true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

I further certify that the property owner, if different from the applicant, and the appropriate DEP Regional Office were sent a complete copy of this Request (including all appropriate documentation) simultaneously with the submittal of this Request to the Conservation Commission.

Failure by the applicant to send copies in a timely manner may result in dismissal of the Request for Determination of Applicability.

Signatures:

I also understand that notification of this Request will be placed in a local newspaper at my expense in accordance with Section 10.05(3)(b)(1) of the Wetlands Protection Act regulations.

*Brooke E. Shulda*

Signature of Applicant

*8/7/2025*

Date

*Daniel S. Crova*

Signature of Representative (if any)

*8/7/2025*

Date

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## ATTACHMENT A – PROJECT NARRATIVE

**Request for Determination of Applicability**

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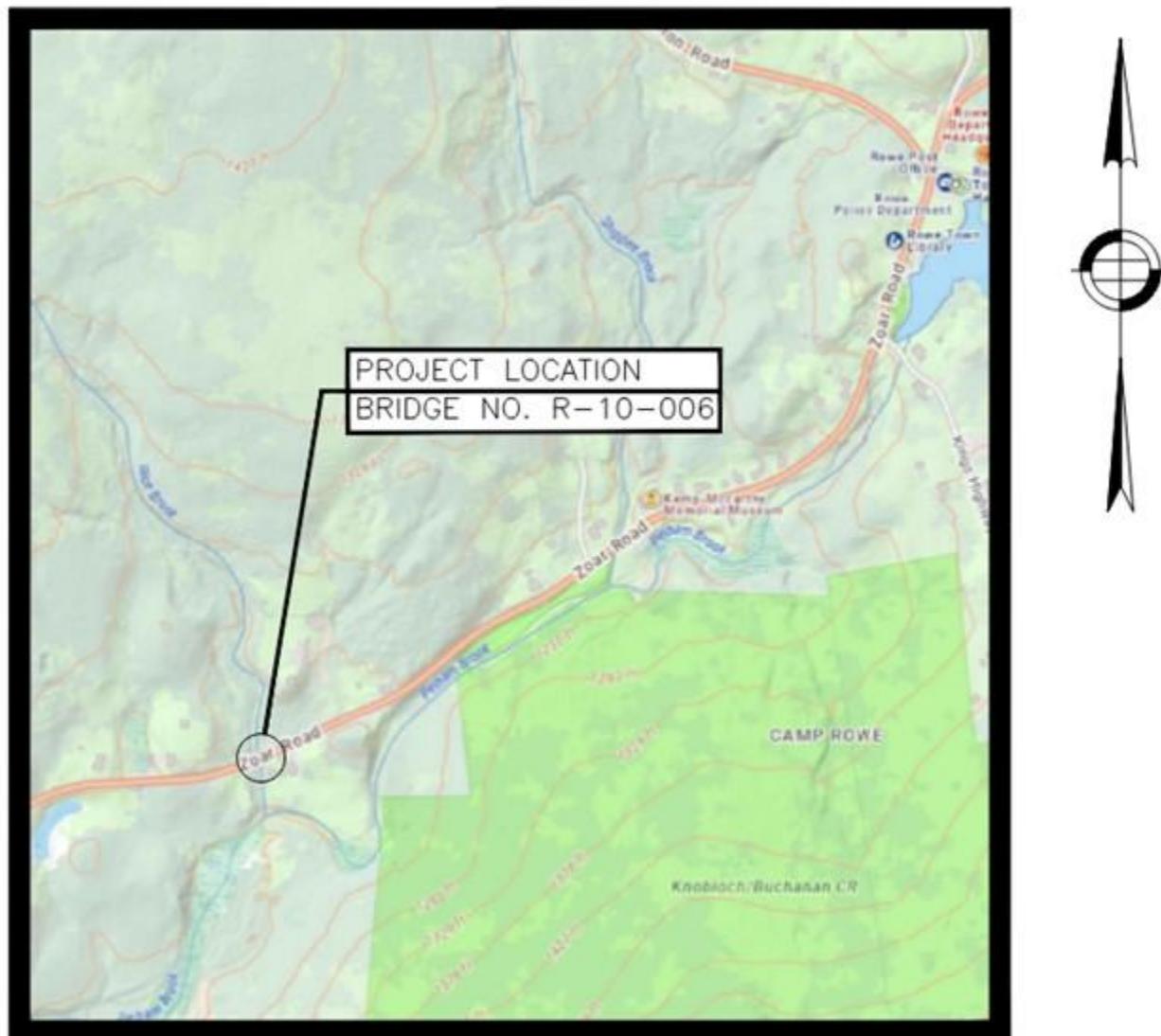
**Zoar Road over Sam Rice Brook**

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Town of Rowe proposes to perform preservation work to the bridge carrying Zoar Road over Sam Rice Brook in Rowe, MA. The proposed work includes repairs to the existing severely deteriorated steel beam ends. The work is intended to improve the current level of safety and extend the service life of the existing bridge structure.

## **2. AREA DESCRIPTION**

The project area is shown below on the locus map.



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GIS data layers, as mapped by the Commonwealth's Office of Geographic Information (MassMapper), were overlaid on the project locus to determine the presence/absence and general location of environmental resources within, adjacent, and proximate to the bridge preservation project limits on Zoar Road.

**2.1. WETLAND RESOURCES**

Sam Rice Brook is a perennial stream and therefore the project site is within the Riverfront Area. All proposed work activities will take place on the bridge structure and not in undisturbed areas.

**2.2. MASSACHUSETTS NATURAL HERITAGE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM**

The project site is not located within a Priority Habitat or Estimated Habitat of Rare Species.

**2.3. STORMWATER CRITICAL AREAS**

Sam Rice Brook is a cold water fishery. All proposed work activities will take place on the bridge structure and not within the waterway.

The project site is not located within other stormwater critical areas (i.e. Outstanding Resource Waters, Zone II or Interim Wellhead Protection Areas, certain waters within ACECs, public swimming beaches, shellfish growing areas).

**2.4. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) for the Town of Rowe, Massachusetts, Berkshire County, were reviewed. The project is not within a floodplain. All proposed work activities will take place on the bridge structure, and no new fill is proposed.

**3. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**

The proposed repair work is limited to performing urgent repairs to five of the existing severely deteriorated steel beam ends. The deteriorated beam ends will be encased in reinforced concrete to strengthen and protect them from future corrosion. Workers will walk into the brook to place ladders under the bridge to gain access to the beam ends at the abutment bridge seats. No other equipment will be placed in the brook. There will be no excavation in the brook. The image below shows where the repairs will be performed on the bridge structure (see yellow boxes).

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Figure 1: Severe Corrosion of Beam Ends

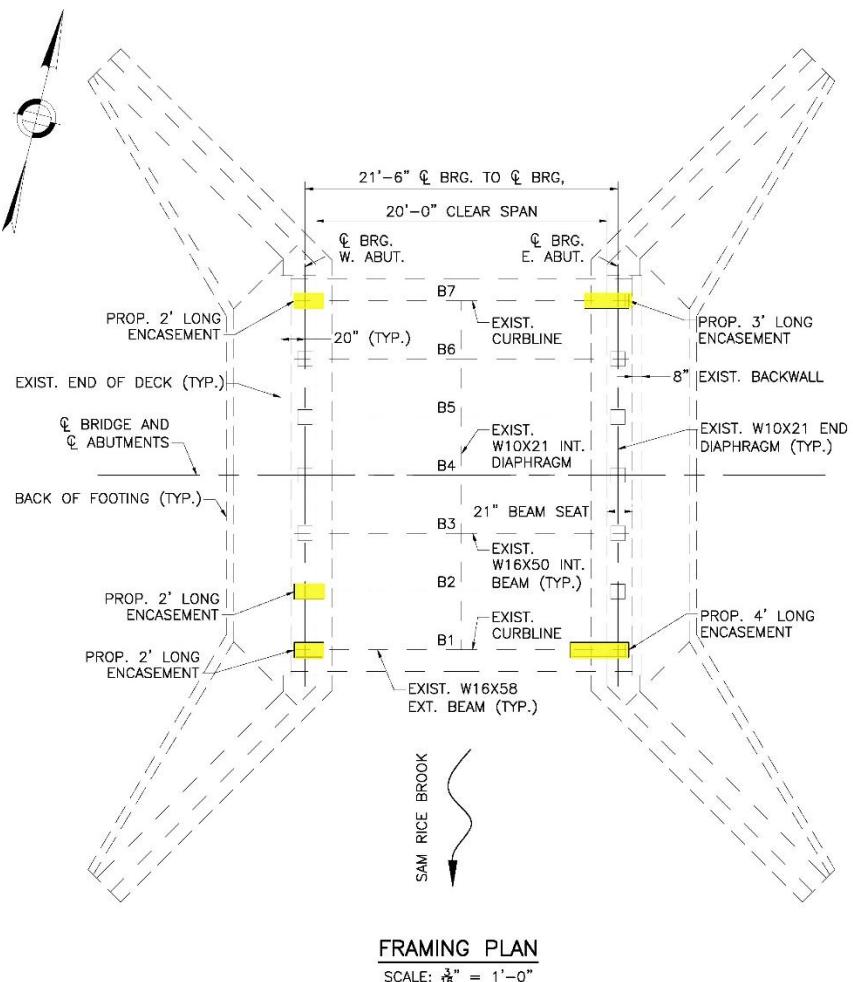


Figure 2: Framing Plan Encasement Locations

The project will include a shielding system designed to contain debris and to prevent it from entering the surrounding environment. The contractor will be responsible for the shielding system design. The

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shielding system will most likely consist of timber planks spanning between beams with brackets attached to the exterior beams and the faces of the abutments. No shielding elements will be located in the waterways beneath the bridge.

As currently proposed, all work on this project is on the bridge structure. No construction activity will be performed directly in the water or below existing ground level. Sam Rice Brook will be accessed by the workers to place their ladders, but no alteration of the resource area will occur.

It is respectfully requested that the Rowe Conservation Commission issue a Negative Determination with conditions as deemed appropriate, thereby allowing the project to proceed in the absence of the preparation and filing of a Notice of Intent.

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## ATTACHMENT B – BRIDGE REPAIR PLANS

