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PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Anne Gobi and Representative Todd Smola Announce Watershed Grant Funding Awarded to Sturbridge

BOSTON – Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) and Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren) are happy to announce over \$21,000 in grant funding awarded to the Town of Sturbridge. The funding is being awarded through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

“I appreciate the work of the town to develop this master plan, as well as their continuing efforts to support Old Sturbridge Village and the preservation of the water quality of the town and Quinebaug River Watershed area,” said Senator Gobi.

The funding will be used for the Sturbridge Stormwater Pollution Reduction Project administered by the Quinebaug River/Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission. The project will implement Green Infrastructure (GI) and Low-Impact Development (LID) techniques to reduce stormwater runoff from residential and commercial development. This project will also assist the town in development of a LID Bylaw at Sturbridge Town Meeting. The LID-based education component will be implemented at Old Sturbridge Village and a conceptual drawing and feasibility of a GI/LID installation for the main visitor parking lot will be developed to address stormwater runoff issues.

“The projects funded through this grant are commonsense measures to reduce our impact on the local watershed.” said Representative Smola. “This funding will benefit both Sturbridge and the region as a whole, and I congratulate the town for securing this money.”

According to MassDEP, the term “non-point source pollution” refers to contaminants that are carried to a waterway as a result of precipitation and stormwater runoff from the land or infiltration into the soil. Common types of non-point source pollution include phosphorus and nitrogen from lawn and garden

fertilizers, bacteria from pet waste and waterfowl, oil and grease from parking lots and roadways and sediment from construction activities and soil erosion.

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