

Finlayson, Ian (ENE)

From: Steve Bukoff <lawnprolawncare@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, 30 June 2022 10:27 AM
To: STRETCHCODE (ENE)
Subject: Building Code Comments

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dating back to 2019 (Pre-Pandemic) there was a “Healthy Soils Initiative” panel created which consisted of Educators, Green Industry Associates and Environmentalist, all contributing to a common cause of maintaining better management of our soils statewide. In my opinion, one of the most critical subjects that was spoken about was the common practice of stripping healthy soils from new construction development sites, whereas existing healthy soil would be stripped from the property pre construction, often times for resale and profit. The property is then graded and finished with a thin layer of inferior soils which are typically detrimental to healthy landscapes and proper carbon sequestration abilities.

Considering all of the environmental talking points surrounding soils in the Commonwealth, this specific point would reverse a decades old procedure practiced by most every contractor statewide.

It would be very constructive to consider healthy soils in the Building Code as the “Healthy Soils Initiative” was designed to accomplish.

Obviously, due to the pandemic, the “Healthy Soils Initiative” was dramatically affected and likely tabled due to staffing limitations. Introducing the “Soil Stripping” component from the “Healthy Soils Initiative” would go to great lengths in preventing this common contractor practice from continuing, and it would stop future environmental harm to healthy soils throughout the Commonwealth.