

North River Commission

Representing the Towns of – Hanover, Hanson, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke & Scituate
PO Box 760, Hanover, MA 02339

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Minutes August 24, 2023 - Meeting #588

Present: Hanover, Daniel Jones (M), Hanover, Andrew Butler (A), Hanson, Jennifer Heine (M), Marshfield, Maryanne Leonard (M), Norwell, Tim Simpson (M), Scituate, Adria Gallagher (M),
Not Attending: Hanson, Donna Frehill (A), Marshfield, Mike Dimeo (A), Norwell, Robert Molla (A), Pembroke, Bill Boulter (M), Pembroke, Gino Fellini (A), Scituate, Ken Conway (A), Scituate, John Lalone (A)

7:00 - Call to Order

7:00 - Informal Discussion - Trouant's Island - Tarbox

Meeting was continued upon request.

7:15 - New Business

1. Minutes approved for July 27, 2023 meeting.
2. Administrators Report - Administrator Gary Wolcott (GW) reported on...
 - 233 River Street, Norwell – Determination of Allowed Use for proposed shed raze/rebuild, cabin restoration and gangway/float project forwarded to applicant/homeowners and their representative.
 - 62 Collier Road, Scituate – Determination of Allowed Use for proposed additions to existing dwelling forwarded to applicant/homeowners and their representative.
 - 37 Canoe Club Lane, Pembroke – Determination of Allowed Use for proposed gangway and float project forwarded to applicant/homeowner.
 - Scanning Project – Communicated with Morgan Records project coordinator for status update of NRC files scanning. They have been delayed in production and now anticipate scanning in September.
 - Boat Patrol Memorandum of Understanding with Town of Marshfield revisions completed. The agreement was signed and executed.
 - Independent Contractor agreement between administrator and the North and South River Watershed Association completed and signed.
 - Received reports and photos of speeding pontoon boat. NRC was included in reporting of the incidents to NSRWA and Marshfield and Norwell Harbormasters. Municipal authorities are following up with enforcement. The Commission reviewed and discussed the information that had been provided. They discussed proactive measures to increase awareness of the public about the restrictions on boat speeding, racing, waterskiing and jet skis. A newsletter was discussed and timing its release for the spring when interest in using the river was increasingly on people's minds.
 - Received report and photos of speeding and skim-boarding. NRC was included in reporting of the incidents to NSRWA and Marshfield and Norwell Harbormasters. Marshfield Harbormaster has successfully concluded an investigation of the matter.
 - Reviewed responses to letters that had been sent out to property owners with apparently oversized floats in the river. As access to paper files was unobtainable due to scanning project

delay, discussions were put off until the files could be reviewed. GW will try to get early digital scanning of the pertinent files so that digital copies will be available for review prior to, and during, the September 28 meeting. The Commission reviewed the float sizes downstream of Bridge Street, Norwell.

- Received inquiry about 38 Old Shipyard Lane, Hanover from a potential buyer. Discussed the Protective Order as it relates to docks, vegetative cutting, and additions to pre-existing, non-conforming structures.
 - Received forwarded message from Marshfield Harbormaster regarding a planned Department of Transportation Rt. 3 bridge replacement project. The message was an inquiry from an engineer on the project requesting information about conditions of the river in that location and permitting required from local municipalities and agencies. The Commission discussed Section 10 of the Protective Order which exempts several state agencies, including the Department of Public Works, the predecessor of the Department of Transportation, from any action by the Commission which prohibits, restricts, or impairs said agency's duties conferred or imposed by law.
 - Communications with current hearing attendees about their projects and appearing at this meeting.
 - Real Estate transactions in the Corridor - 251 Damon's Point Road, Marshfield, Welcome Letter sent to new property owner.
 - Site Visits - GW - Bridge Street Landing for drone ops to re-examine the vegetative cutting off Hunter Drive, Marshfield. The Commission reviewed the photographs and determined that the cutting was done in conjunction with access to an approved pier/ gangway/float project.
 - Municipal Hearings - Scituate, 67 Collier Road, Reviewed town's hiring of consultant to review the boulder wall construction and considered timeline for completion as it relates to ongoing Special Permit Application with NRC.
3. Informal Discussion - 156 Brigantine Circle, Norwell - Lynch - Property owner Steve Lynch appeared to discuss a potential vegetative cutting project at his property on Brigantine Circle, Norwell. Mr. Lynch provided the Commission with some photographs of the property, historical photos and current photos which demonstrated the difference between his views of the river when the property was purchased in 2007 and as it appears currently. Mr. Lynch is interested in the North River Commission's (NRC) application of Section 8(C), Vegetative Cutting Standards and how the interests and regulations of the NRC and the Town of Norwell's Conservation Commission (NCC) intersect and overlap. He is looking for guidance from the NRC on what constitutes vegetative clearing and what the process is for getting vegetative cutting permitted by both the NRC and NCC. Mr. Simpson has the impression that the NCC is stricter about vegetative cutting than the NRC, noting their "No Disturb" zones as compared to the NRC's allowance for a view corridor and selective cutting. Mr. Jones suggested that typically the NRC recommends that applicants apply for permitting with their local Conservation Commission first, as the NRC usually allows more leeway than the Conservation Commissions do. GW noted that the Protective Order leans more toward zoning analysis than conservation analysis and vegetative cutting is one area where there is overlap with Conservation Commission. The Commission reviewed the photos provided and Mr. Lynch described the vegetation apparent in the photos. Mr. Lynch will follow up with Conservation and get their views on cutting.
4. Supplemental Regulations Discussion - The Commission discussed the feasibility and mechanics of creating Supplemental Regulations to the Protective Order that address issues not currently covered in the Order or issues currently included in the Order that require clarification.

Meeting adjourned 8:50 pm

Gary Wolcott, Administrator