

North River Commission - Minutes

Meeting #611 – July 24, 2025 – Norwell Town Offices, 93 Longwater Circle, Norwell, MA

Present:

Heine (Hanson), Kemmett (Hanson – A), Leonard (Marshfield), Simpson (Norwell), Boulter (Pembroke), Gallagher (Scituate), Lalone (Scituate – A), Conway (Scituate – A)

Absent:

Jones (Hanover), Butler (Hanover – A), Lynch (Norwell – A)

1. Application to Modify a Special Permit – 67 Collier Rd., Scituate (Cahill)

Request: Modification of Special Permit 2/21 to allow an after-the-fact boulder retaining wall.

Presentation: Attorney Jeffrey DeLisi reviewed site history, permits, Conservation Commission filing, and rationale for the wall, including safety and structural support for a deck. Letters from a retired building inspector and a contractor were cited in support. Coastal geologist Stan Humphries testified that the Natural Bank lies farther seaward than earlier mapping shows and that the wall is over 100 ft. from it.

Discussion: Commissioners questioned the relationship between the Protective Order and the Wetlands Protection Act, the status of the project with municipal approving authorities, mapping accuracy, reliance on Google imagery vs. surveys, and consistency in determining the Natural Bank's location. Concerns were also raised about why the wall was not proposed before construction and whether it was necessary for egress. At Commission members' request, Mr. Conway was asked to recuse himself from the deliberations or commenting on the matter.

Public Comment: Abutters expressed mixed views—several citing storm impacts and concerns about increased flooding, one urging focus on the unpermitted nature of the construction and one stating no adverse effect to their property.

Action: Motion to continue hearing for a site visit and review of presented materials (Gallagher/Heine). Vote: 5-0, Hanson – Aye, Marshfield – Aye, Norwell – Aye, Pembroke – Aye, Scituate – Aye, Motion carried.

Plans/Documents referenced:

Plans: "Proposed Native Mitigation Plantings for 67 Collier Road in Scituate, Mass., Scale: 1' = 20', Dated: October 19, 2022, Ross Engineering Company Inc., Kevin S. Grady, P.E.", "As-Built Plan for 67 Collier Road in Scituate, Mass., Scale: 1'=20', Dated: October 19, 2022, Ross Engineering Company Inc., Paul Joseph Mirabito, P.L.S."

Maps: D.E.M. Orthophoto Base Map for the Scenic River Corridor, North River (sheet 2 of 10), Dated: October 19, 1978, Google Map Imagery, Dated: June 15, 2024

Memorandum: ECR, Environmental Consulting & Restoration, LLC, Dated: July 10, 2025, Stan Humphries, Coastal Geologist

Letters: Neil F. Duggan, CBO, Building Commissioner (Ret), Town of Scituate
Chris Pratt, Licensed General Contractor, Pratt Custom Building
Documents: Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, G.L. c.31, s.40, The Scenic and Recreational
River Protective Order for the North River, G.L. c.21, s.17b and c.367, s.62 of the Acts of
1978

2. Request for Determination – 89 Neal Gate St., Scituate (Hoffmann)

Request: Removal of four diseased/rotting trees.

Discussion: Members conducted a site visit. Two cedar and two pine trees found to be dead or diseased. Members discussed whether replacement plantings could be required but noted that the Protective Order allows removal of diseased trees without replacement.

Action: Motion to allow removal as an “Allowed Use,” subject to obtaining any other required municipal approvals (Simpson/Leonard). Vote: 5-0 Motion carried.

Documents: Photographs (Applicant 3/7/25; Commission 7/11/25).

3. New Business

Approved minutes of Meeting #610-June 26, 2025.

Administrator’s Report (Wolcott):

- Submitted NRC opposition letter to Bill H.4110; reviewed legislative process.
- Determination issued that proposed project at 158 River Rd., Hanover is an Allowed Use.
- Provided archived digital file to a representative of 55 Macomber’s Way, Marshfield.
- Reviewed H.4110 with Scituate Democratic Town Committee member.

No municipal hearings for properties located in the Corridor.

No real estate transactions in corridor this month.

Site visit conducted at 89 Neal Gate St.

4. Old Business / Discussion

Reviewed draft dock/float regulations; further comments welcomed.

Marine Patrol update: increase in river moorings noted.

Adjourned: 9:13 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Gary Wolcott, Administrator

Video available: Norwell Spotlight TV – <https://www.norwellspotlighttv.com/schedule.html>