

North River Commission

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

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Minutes June 24, 2024 - Meeting #598

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

7:00 - Call to Order

7:00 - Special Permit Application - 67 Collier Road, Scituate - Cahill

The applicant requested that the hearing be continued to the July 22, 2024 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to continue the hearing to July 22, 2024. The motion was carried unanimously.

7:20 - Request for Determination - 85 Harbor Lane, Norwell - LaGrassa

The applicants, Richard and Aimee LaGrassa, with their representative Caroline Rees of Merrill Engineering and Land Surveyors appeared for a project to construct a pier, gangway and floats at 85 Harbor Lane, Norwell. The applicants had presented the project originally to the Commission in July 2023. At that time the Commission asked that the applicants complete their permitting with town, state, and federal agencies so that any comments or revisions that were requested could be incorporated into a plan for their review. Ms. Rees reviewed this process and indicated that the applicant had received approval from the Town with an Order of Conditions from the Conservation Commission, had been given a General License from the State per Chapter 91, and had received a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers. Revisions to the plan included a reduction in the square footage of the floats from 400 S.F. to 300 S.F., in the form of two 10' x 15' floats and an increase in separation from the pier to the salt marsh to a 1.5:1 ratio. While most of the original design is unchanged in this regard, the 25'+/- landward section of the pier is raised one foot. The applicant is also seeking to add a wind/flag pole at the end of the pier. There is nothing specific to flagpoles in the Protective Order and members acknowledged that there are a number of flagpoles on the river. Mr. Simpson thinks that a twenty-foot-high flagpole is typical. Members discussed the float sizes relative to the other docks in the area and the importance placed on obtaining all the permits that the various local, state, and federal agencies required which many other properties on the river are lacking. Ms. Gallagher asked why two floats are requested. Mr. LaGrassa indicated that other non-resident family members and friends have boats that would require dockage when visiting that a single float could not accommodate. He also thought the scale of the pier (1000 ft.) would be unbalanced by a single small float. Ms. Rees added that the Corps of Engineers preferred, and requested, two smaller floats rather than one single float of similar square footage. She also noted that many nearby docks were larger than what the applicant was requesting. A motion was made and seconded that the project as presented is an Allowed Use. The motion was carried unanimously. Ms. Rees also updated the Commission on the status of tree cutting incidental to an addition project that the Commission had previously approved. A site walk is scheduled with the Conservation Commission and the applicant has no objection to members of the North River Commission joining the walk. GW will coordinate with the Conservation Commission agent.

Plans/Documents referenced: "Dock Plan, 85 Harbor Lane, Norwell, Massachusetts, Prepared For: Richard and Aimee LaGrassa, Dated: July 12, 2023, Last Revision April 17, 2024, Scale: As Noted, Merrill, Inc., Engineers and Land Surveyors, Brendan Sullivan, P.E."

New Business

1. Administrators Report - Administrator Gary Wolcott (GW).
 - 75 Harbor Lane, Norwell - The property owners had submitted a Special Permit Application for the June meeting but the advertising deadline had passed. They will be on the July 22, 2024 Agenda for their project to construct an accessory structure.
 - 36 Stony Brook Lane, Norwell - As reviewed and approved at the April meeting, a Release of Special Permit and Conditions was forwarded to the property owner/representative.
 - Town of Norwell Land - The duck blind that was constructed on Town of Norwell property in the salt marsh along the river is still there but has now been tipped on its side. Efforts are being made to coordinate a response for removal of the structure with the Town. The NRC has offered to help with the physical removal of the structure.
 - Salt Meadow Lane, Scituate/Norwell - A resident of Salt Meadow Lane called the office to communicate that a property owner has been meeting with the Town of Norwell for bringing fill on the site in anticipation of a future project. The resident wants to make sure the Commission is aware of the project.
 - Site Visits - None this period. One is scheduled for 85 Harbor Lane, Norwell for Vegetative Cutting Review.
 - Real Estate Transactions in corridor - 112 Riverside Drive, Norwell
 - Municipal Hearings
 - Hanover - 119 River Road, ConCom, for storm damage cleanup and tree removal.
 - Hanson - None
 - Marshfield - None
 - Norwell - 0 Riverside Drive, ConCom, for construction of new dwelling
 - Pembroke - None
 - Scituate - ConCom, 67 Collier Road, ongoing, no action this month
2. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes with noted revisions, reading waived, of Meeting #597, May 23, 2024. The motion was carried unanimously.
3. Damon's Point Road Revetment, Marshfield - As the appeal period for Special Permit 3 of 2024 had lapsed, the members signed the Special Permit with Conditions document for release to the applicant.
4. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Review - The Commission reviewed the remaining budget in Fiscal Year 2024. GW suggested that the nominal amount of funding remaining in the budget could be spent on office supplies and postage. The Commission agreed and so directed.
5. Member Absences - Members discussed how to address the situation of members who were not attending meetings and/or who had been inactive. GW will work with the Chair to draft some correspondence to those members addressing the situation.

Old Business

1. Review of Possible Violations - The Commission reviewed activity at two sites on Third Cliff in Scituate for potential violations of the Protective Order. Activity had been observed on the sites

including use of a mini excavator. *GW* summarized the location of the two properties and the location of the Natural Bank. Members discussed the activities and the confusion around the location of the Natural Bank around the area of "The Spit." Remedies for clarifying the confusion were discussed.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm

Gary Wolcott, Administrator

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