

North River Commission

Representing the Towns of – Hanover, Hanson, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke & Scituate

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Minutes May 22, 2025 - Meeting #609

Present: Hanover, Daniel Jones (M), Hanover, Andrew Butler (A), Hanson, Jennifer Heine (M), Marshfield, Maryanne Leonard (M), Norwell, Tim Simpson (M), Norwell, Stephen Lynch (A), Pembroke, Bill Boulter (M), Scituate, Adria Gallagher (M), Scituate, John Lalone (A)

Not Attending: Hanson, John Kemmett (A), Scituate, Ken Conway (A)

7:00 - Call to Order

New Business

1. Approved Minutes of April 24, 2025.
2. Administrators Report - Administrator Gary Wolcott (GW).
 - The Approval letter for the 31 Island View Circle, Norwell phragmite removal project was forwarded to the applicant and their representative.
 - The Town of Marshfield/Harbormaster requested a one-year extension for Special Permit 3/24 for float replacement and reconfiguration and deck construction at the Damon's Point Revetment site. They are still waiting on issuance of a Chapter 91 license from the State and approval from Army Corps of Engineers before they can begin.
 - A Marshfield resident contacted the office to inquire about the North River Commission vacancy for a Marshfield Alternate Member. They were informed about the nomination process through the Town's Select Board and advised to contact them about acquiring a nomination. They were encouraged to contact current members of the Commission for questions, comments, or feedback.
 - Logistical information was given about the new Norwell Town Hall. Beginning June 25, 2025, meetings will be held in Room 133A, Norwell Town Hall, 93 Longwater Circle, Norwell, MA.
 - Municipal Hearings -60-76 Macomers Way, Marshfield, Planning Board for ANR plan. The ANR plan may be an indicator that some development may occur later. 22 Old Meeting House Lane, Norwell, Planning Board for ANR plan.
 - Site Visits - None
 - Real Estate Transactions in corridor - 17 Arrowhead Drive, Norwell

General-Old Business-Open Discussion

1. Review of remaining funds available from the FY 2025 budget. The members discussed how the remainder of the funds should be spent, considering the amount to be set aside for the Pembroke Police Marine Patrol of the river and payroll.
2. Review of proposed dock/float regulations. Mr. Lynch reviewed the process and timeline for the members to review, comment, edit, and/or modify a proposed by-law for float sizes. He suggests compiling ongoing comments until satisfactory completion of a Commission by-law draft, to be followed up with presentations to the member Town's Select Boards and other appropriate Departments or Boards that have approving authority for docks and floats.

3. HD 3585 - Representative Kearney's bill has been introduced and assigned to Committee. It has been given a bill number. It will be known as H4110. No action is currently scheduled. Members were provided information about tracking the bill's progress on the Mass.Gov Legislature site and how to sign up for oral testimony or submit online written testimony. Mr. Boulter met with Pembroke Select Board and has secured a letter of support for the continued existence of the North River Commission. He suggested that other members do the same.
4. Potential Project at the Spit - GW reviewed his efforts to learn more about a prospective project at the Spit in Scituate that a concerned citizen called in about. He has contacted several town departments for information but so far has been unsuccessful.
5. 67 Collier Road, Scituate Special Permit Appeal - The Commission reviewed recent developments in the DCR Appeal of the Special Permit Denial. The Applicants informed the Hearing Officer that they would like to introduce new evidence at the appeal hearing. NRC Attorney objected to this, arguing that new evidence should be submitted directly to the NRC, not at an appeal hearing. The hearing officer ruled that new evidence would be allowed at the hearing and that the NRC would have an opportunity to respond to the new evidence post hearing but that the appeal hearing could be continued if the parties agreed to remand the matter to the Commission for a hearing that would include the new evidence. The Commission discussed these issues and were amenable to a remanded hearing with some input from the Commission about topics of discussion.

Motion - Mr. Lynch moved that the Commission accept a remanded hearing. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

Outcome - The motion was carried unanimously 6-0. (Aye-Hanover, Hanson, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, Scituate)

Meeting Adjourned at 8:35 pm

Minutes Compiled by Gary Wolcott, Administrator

Complete video of this meeting is available on demand from Norwell Spotlight TV at

<http://72.93.231.20/CablecastPublicSite/search?query=north%20river%20commission&site=2>