

North River Commission

Representing the Towns of – Hanover, Hanson, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke & Scituate
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Minutes May 23, 2024 - Meeting #597

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

7:00 - Call to Order

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

Maria Cahill, property owner of 67 Collier Road, Scituate, appeared to update the Commission on the status of the concurrent filing with Scituate Conservation Commission. The Commission has been continuing her Special Permit Application for the construction of a boulder wall to await a report to be given to the Conservation Commission from a review engineer that has been retained to review the site. Ms. Cahill reports that the review engineer has not completed his efforts. She has followed up with the town who have contacted the engineer to get a handle on a timeframe for the report's completion. GW stated that he had spoken with the ConCom Agent and confirmed that the town has contacted the engineer and are awaiting his reply. Mr. Boulter believes that the Commission has waited this long to get the report and now it appears that one is forthcoming so the Commission should see what it contains before bringing the Special Permit Application to vote. Mr. Lynch asked what the report was expected to produce; was it structural engineering? Marine engineering? Ms. Cahill believes the reviewer is a Coastal Engineer. Mr. Jones referenced CZM guidelines that recommend against construction of walls that influence wave action but don't prohibit it, leaving the decision to the towns. Mr. Jones noted that the Protective Order does prohibit construction of structures within 100 feet of the Natural Bank. Ms. Gallagher agrees that, as the review engineer's report appears close at hand, she is willing to delay voting on the Application the report can be reviewed, but is dubious that the report can offer a rationale to counter the Protective Order's setback requirement. Mr. Kemmett asked after the review engineer's purpose; was he reviewing from the Town's perspective or the North River Commission's perspective? The review engineer presumed to be reviewing the site as it relates to Town of Scituate Regulations but there should be considerable areas of overlap with the North River Commission's perspective. Mr. Kemmett asked why the North River Commission is concerned with a report that doesn't specifically address the North River Protective Order? The Commission was taking a cautious approach before acting and was willing to review the report as it might contain information that hadn't yet been considered. Mr. Lynch asked if there was precedent of expert testimony that had resulted in a waiver to the 100 ft setback requirement. The members could not recall such an occurrence. A motion was made and seconded to continue the hearing to June 24, 2024. The motion was passed unanimously.

7:20 - Special Permit Application - Damon's Point Road Revetment, Marshfield - Town of Marshfield

Kevin Maguire, on behalf of Marshfield Harbormaster and the Town of Marshfield, appeared to present a Special Permit Application to remove/replace existing floats and construct additional decks at the Damon's Point Road Revetment site. At the April 2024 meeting the applicant informally described in detail the

proposed project and received feedback from the Commission. They are here tonight for the formal presentation. Mr. Maguire reviewed the proposed plan and described the existing conditions on the site and the location of resource areas. He explained how the proposed float system would differ from what is current. Generally, the proposed float replacement is slightly larger, expanding from 8' wide to 10' wide, and slightly further forward in the river. DEP has requested that the floats be relocated so that they do not sit on the mud flats at low tide. To accommodate this request, the applicant has proposed the floats be located 5 feet further into the river. To make the transition from the existing revetment to the proposed float location an 8' x 14' deck is proposed. The second aspect of the project, the construction of a deck at the end of the revetment was described by Mr. Maguire. He described how the proposed deck will be flush/level with the existing revetment asphalt and the proposed railing will be the same height as the existing railings. Ms. Heine asked for the location of the deck in relation to the Pile Marker Post. The proposed deck will be between the edge of the revetment and Pile Marker Post No. 23 which is inaccessible for waterborne traffic. Ms. Leonard asked what material the decking would be made of. It will be wood. A motion was made and seconded to grant a Special Permit for the Application as proposed. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1. Administrators Report - Administrator Gary Wolcott (GW).
 - Meeting Relocation - Beginning June 24th, meetings will be held in the Osborn Room at Norwell Town Hall on the fourth Monday of each month, except for November and December when meetings will be the third Monday of the month. Video coverage of North River Commission meetings was confirmed with Norwell Spotlight TV from June 2024 forward upon request and subject to availability.
 - 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.
 - 22 Salt Meadow Lane - A resident called to inform the Commission that a project is in the works and that meetings have been scheduled with Norwell Conservation Commission. The North River Commission should expect that a filing is forthcoming.
 - Met with Norwell Conservation Commission Agent and reviewed items of mutual interest. Discussed the possibility of a joint meeting of North River and Conservation Commissions.
 - Members
 - Site Visits - Third Cliff for Drone Operations.
 - Real Estate Transactions in corridor - None.
 - Municipal Hearings
 - Hanover - None
 - Hanson - None
 - Marshfield - ConCom, 3 Trouant's Island, pool, 7 Trouant's Island, new dwelling
 - Norwell - None
 - 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, reading waived, of Meeting #596, April 25, 2024. The motion was carried unanimously.
3. Property Review - Locations on Collier Road, Scituate were reviewed for possible violations. A summary of site histories and current conditions was given. Digital Files to be shared with members for additional review.

4. Review of Conflict-of-Interest Law and Education Requirements - Members were reminded of their obligations as public board members. The State Ethics Commission requires that they acknowledge receipt of the conflict-of-interest summary annually and complete the online training program every two years.
5. Budget Review - The Commission reviewed the remaining budget in Fiscal Year 2024.

Old Business

1. River Patrols - Mr. Boulter reviewed prospective arrangements with Pembroke Police Department for patrolling the North River. He will continue working with them to set up a contract for details on the river for enforcing the North River Protective Order. The Commission discussed the particulars.

Meeting adjourned 8:31 pm

Gary Wolcott, Administrator