

# North River Notes

Volume 7, Number 1

2007

A publication of the North River Commission, PO Box 612, Norwell, MA 02061, 781-659-7411

## Pembroke \* Hanover \* Hanson \* Norwell \* Marshfield \* Scituate Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation

**Questions & Answers about The Scenic and Recreational River Protective Order for the North River** provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) formerly know as Department of Environment Management (DEM). These maps are available for viewing

What is the Protective Order? The Protective Order is a set of regulations adopted in 1978 by the Massachusetts Legislature acknowledging the significance of the North River as recreational and scenic resource in Massachusetts. To preserve this valuable natural resource, the regulations identify the River Corridor (land subject to protection under the Order) and specify allowed, prohibited, and special permitted uses within the Corridor.

What lands are included in the River Corridor?

The River Corridor includes the North River, marshes, and the 300' wide upland area on both sides of the River. The Corridor includes land in Scituate, Marshfield, Norwell, Hanover, Hanson, and Pembroke. These towns are members of the North River Commission (NRC).

How is land regulated under the Protective Order?

The Protective Order restricts use and development of land within the River Corridor. It affords the most protection within 100' of each side of the riverbank, where no new development and virtually no vegetative cutting is allowed. From 100' - 300' from each side of the riverbank, development if it meets specified site design standards. The Protective Order defines uses within the Corridor that are allowed, prohibited, or allowed only by Special Permit.

Who should know about the Protective Order? Everyone who uses the River or appreciates its value as a natural resource should be familiar with the Protective Order. The Protective Order is also of interest to property owners or those wanting to buy property within the Corridor. Professionals such as Realtors, planners, engineers, landscapers and municipal officials should be familiar with the Protective Order because the regulations may impact their properties or projects.

How can I find out if a piece of property is within the River Corridor? The Corridor is delineated on a series of maps

## NORTH RIVER COMMISSION

Pembroke - James Hannon, Chairman  
Alan Holbrook - Alternate  
Hanover - Daniel Jones - Member  
James Tower - Alternate  
Hanson - Charles Mann - Member  
Edward Casey - Alternate  
Norwell - Gary Thomas - Member  
Dennis Mahoney - Alternate  
Marshfield - Christopher Head - Member  
Maryanne Leonard - Alternate  
Scituate - Joseph Norton, Jr. - Member  
Joseph Norton, Sr. - Alternate  
Boat Patrol Officer - Joseph Strazdes  
Administrator - Judy Grecco

**You can call 781-659-7411, if you see anything that could destroy the natural scenic beauty of the North River, please help us protect your river now, so that future generations can enjoy it as you have !**

## Commission Decisions for 2006

### January 26, 2006

No Meeting

### February 23, 2006

No Meeting

### March 23, 2006

Request for Determination - Lot 62 Stony Brook Lane  
Norwell -Driveway - Allowed

Request for Determination - 48 Collier Road, Scituate  
addition -Allowed

Informal - 116 Old Meetinghouse Ln. Norwell - tear down,  
needs Special Permit

### April 27, 2006

Certificate of Compliance - 164 Riverside Circle  
Marshfield - Deck - Issued

Deed Restriction -50 Turners Way, Norwell - Approved

Informal Discussion-Lot 5 Turners Way, Norwell, for  
New House

Special Permit Hearing - 110 Damons Point Way,  
Marshfield - Renewed SP7/89

### May 25, 2006

Request for Determination - 118 Brigantine Circle,  
Norwell - needs Special Permit

Informal Discussion - North River Marine  
needs Special Permit to dredge River

### June 22, 2006

Informal Discussion - Eagle Scout Project  
Norris - Reservation - Osprey Nest

Request for Determination - Lot #5 Turners Way, Norwell  
- New House - Allowed

Request For Determination - 1277 Union Street,  
Marshfield - Fence - Allowed

Request For Determination - 174 Brigantine Circle,  
Norwell - porch/deck -Allowed

Special Permit Hearing - 42 Moorland Rd. Scituate  
Raze/Reconstruct - Approved

Special Permit Hearing - 118 Brigantine Circle, Norwell -  
Deck Renovations Approved

### July 27, 2006

Certificate of Compliance - 75 Moorland Road, Scituate -  
Porch & Deck - Issued

Informal Discussion - Hovercrafts on the North River  
Not Allowed in Protective Order

Informal Discussion - The Town of Norwell is forming a  
Mooring By-Law Committee

### August 24, 2006

Certificate of Compliance - 61 Collier Road, Scituate  
House Renovation - Issued

Vegetative Cutting - 101 Brick Kiln Lane, Pembroke  
site visit, no violation

Special Permit Hearing - 174 Brigantine Circle, Norwell  
enclosed Porch & Deck - Approved

Informal Discussion - 4 Moors Circle, Scituate  
Septic System - outside 100' meets P.O.

### September 28, 2006

Certificate of Compliance - 3 Trouants Island, Marshfield -  
Beach Nourishment - Issued

Special Permit Hearing - 60 Bridge St. Norwell  
Patio & retaining wall - Approved

Request for Determination - 4 Moors Circle, Scituate  
Garage addition - Allowed

Request for Determination - 67 Bridge St. Norwell  
Phragmites removal - Allowed

### October 26, 2006

Revegetation -1332 Union St. Marshfield-Rose- regrown  
Special Permit - 110 Damons Pt. Rd. Marshfield SP7/89 -  
Active

### November 30, 2006

Special Permit Hearing - 116 Old Meetinghouse Lane  
Norwell - House Replacement - Approved

Request for Determination - 31 Damons Pt. Circle  
Marshfield - Rebuild House - Allowed

Request for Determination - 25 Old Landing Rd.  
Pembroke - Dock - Allowed

### December 28, 2006

Request for Determination - 78 Stony Brook Lane,  
Norwell -Septic Repair - Approved

### North River Commission Terms

Informal Discussion - Decide if a project is within the Corridor and what  
permits are needed from the NRC..

Request for Determination - A project within the Corridor that is allowed  
according to the Protective Order.

Special Permit - If a property has an existing structure on it that could  
not currently be built according to the Protective Order, it will need a  
Special Permit to modify it. Recorded on the Property Deed.

Cease & Desist - A violation against the Protective Order and will be  
recorded with the Registry of Deeds on the property.

Certificate of Compliance - Issued upon satisfactory completion of a  
Special Permit, approved by the Commission, need an Asbuilt. Recorded  
to take Special Permit off property deed.

Asbuilt - Engineer signed plan of a finished project.

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## The Shipyard Tablets

In 1919 a group of men formed an association for the purpose of marking the shipyards along the North River. At that time few people knew the exact location of the different yards. So the North River Historical Association was organized with Luther Little of Sea View as President, Hugh Bancroft of Boston, Vice President, J. S. Hathaway of Brookline, Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Committee, Alfred L. Lincoln of Weymouth, Roger S. Dix of Scituate and Edmund Q. Sylvester of Hanover.

Funds were raised and in a short time metal tablets were placed at ten of the principal yards. They were mounted on heavy concrete posts and were placed so that they could easily be seen by the occupants of boats passing up or down the North River.

### The Shipyards marked are:

Barstow's Two Oaks - Hanover - 1792 to 1838, more than 22 vessels of 37 to 340 Tons.

Smith's - Hanover also Barstow's Lower Yard 1789 to 1846, more than 71 vessels of 27 to 388 tons.

Brick-Kiln - Pembroke - 1730 to 1848, more than 56 vessels of 20 to 375 tons.

Fox Hill - Norwell - 1690 to 1860 more than 56 vessels of 20 to 350 tons.

Wanton's - Norwell - 1670 to 1840, more than 107 vessels of 20 to 464 tons.

Chittenden - Norwell - 1690 to 1871, more than 71 vessels of 20 to 301 tons.

Block-House - Norwell - 1701 to 1834 more than 51 vessels 20 to 301 tons.

Briggs' at Hobart's Landing - Marshfield - 1678 to 1845, more than 59 vessels of 16 to 400 tons.

Roger's - Marshfield - 1790 to 1820, more than 23 vessels of 20 to 464 tons.

White's Ferry - Marshfield - 1750 to 1839, more than 40 vessels of 21 to 390 tons.

**North River Commission**

**PO Box 612**

**Norwell, MA 02061**

## Sign the Old Stone Bridge over the North River, Washington Street at the Hanover/Pembroke line

To read the inscription "More than fifty-nine vessels of 16 to 400 tons were built here," does not mean much, but then, realize that one of these was the Columbia weighing more than 200 tons and was the first vessel to carry the American Flag around the world. It was also the first to explore the Columbia River in Oregon, named after the ship. And did you know that one of the famous "British Tea Party Ships," the Beaver, was built at one of these yards. And that the first vessel to carry our "Flag" into an English port came from the North River. The old "Maria" sailed for more than ninety years. At one time the North River vessels could be found on every sea and in every distant port, all adds to the interest of ships built along the North River.

A stranger standing in some deserted yard and reading the tablet, if he could also know the story of each vessel that was built there, where she sailed and in what distant sea or on what rugged coast she finally laid her bones, could gain some slight conception of the glory of a by-gone day.

**The North River Commission, 24 West St, Norwell, MA 02061, 2nd floor, of The James Library. Open - Tuesday & Thursday from 9am to 1pm. Phone number 781-659-7411 or contact us at our website [www.nsrwa.org/nrc](http://www.nsrwa.org/nrc) Meetings held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at the Norwell Town Offices 345 Main St, Norwell, MA.**

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**Scenic and Recreational River Protective Order for the North River**

**Section 9. (D) Erosion Control**

*(1) The following measure shall be complied with for any development of land areas in the Corridor whether it is an allowed use or a use requiring a Special Permit (additional conditions may be required by the terms of the Special Permit):*

*(a) Stripping of vegetation, regrading or other development shall be done in such a way that will minimize soil erosion.*

*(b) Whenever practical, natural vegetation shall be retained, protected, and supplemented.*

*(c) The disturbed area shall be kept to a minimum.*

*(d) Provisions shall be made to accommodate the increased runoff caused by changed soil and surface conditions during and after development.*

*(e) When necessary, temporary vegetation and/or mulching shall be used to protect areas exposed during development.*

*(f) Sediment basins (debris basins, de-silting basins or silt traps) shall be installed and maintained when necessary to remove sediment from runoff waters from land undergoing development.*

*(g) The angle of graded slopes and fills shall be no greater than the angle which can be retained by vegetative cover or other adequate erosion control devices or structures. In any event, slopes left exposed must immediately be planted, or otherwise provided with permanent ground cover, devices, or structures sufficient to retain erosion.*