

North River Notes

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

Pembroke * Hanover * Hanson * Norwell * Marshfield * Scituate
website: www.nrswa.org/NRC

Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation

Questions & Answers about The Scenic and Recreational River Protective Order for the North River

Who administers the Protective Order ?

The NRC carries out the mandates of the Protective Order. The Commission is a division of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and is comprised of representatives and alternates designated by the Board of Selectmen in each member town. The Commission meets monthly on the 4th Thursday to review permit requests, to determine if the Protective Order applies to certain uses and activities, and to discuss related issues. DCR works with the NRC on enforcements, public education and technical support for projects involving state agencies. Funding from DEC provides support for NRC programs including river patrols in the summer.

What projects need Commission approval?

In areas closest to the River (within 100' of the natural bank, which is where the wetland vegetation turns to upland) cutting of vegetation, including limbing of trees, additions/expansions to existing homes, filling of land and other types of activities require review. Most activities proposed within the sensitive 100' *buffer zone* are prohibited. From 100' to 300' on either side of the riverbank (the outer limits of the Corridor), projects such as new residential construction, driveways, new/upgraded septic systems, professional offices, and subdivision of land are allowed but must meet specific design criteria outlined in the Protective Order.

It depends. Although uses clearly allowed require no prior approval, banks or government authorities often require NRC approval for construction projects. Upon request, the NRC routinely reviews Requests for Determinations (RFDs) to determine if proposed projects are allowed, prohibited, or may be allowed by Special Permit. All Special Permits applications require a public hearing and must be advertised in a local paper with prior notice to abutters.

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 - Chris Head - Member
Maryanne Leonard - Alternate
Scituate - Joseph Norton, Jr. Member
Joseph Norton, Sr. - Alternate
Boat Patrol Officer - Joseph Strazdes
Administrator - Judy Grecco

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

Do landowners need to file application or forms with the NRC before these projects can be undertaken?

Commission Decisions for 2007

January 25, 2007

Certificate of Compliance - 80 Kings Landing
Norwell - Tight Tank - Issued
Special Permit Hearing - 79 Collier Road
Scituate - Home Renovation - Approved

February 22, 2007

Certificate of Compliance - 75 Moorland Road
Scituate - Addition - Issued
Informal Discussion - 94 Brigantine Circle
Norwell - Fence - Continued
Request for Determination - Lot 4 Turners Way
Norwell - New Home - Allowed

March 22, 2007

Informal Discussion - Driftway
Scituate - Bike Trail - Preliminary Plan

Informal Discussion - 116 Old Meetinghouse Ln
Norwell - tear down, need Special Permit
Request for Determination - Lot 62 Stony Brook Norwell -
Driveway - Allowed
Request for Determination - 48 Collier Road, Scituate -
Addition -Allowed

April 26, 2007

No Meeting, no hearing requests

May 24, 2007

Certificate of Compliance - 118 Brigantine Cr.
Norwell - Renovation of Deck - Issued
Special Permit Hearing - Driftway - Greenbush Scituate-
MBTA Remediation Area Approved
Informal Discussion -79 Harbor Lane
Norwell - Prevailing view discussion
Informal Discussion-No Discharge Area Education for
Boaters along North River - CZM

June 28, 2007

Informal Discussion - 94 Brigantine Circle
Norwell - Fence
Informal Discussion - 6 Barry's Landing
Scituate - proposed Garage questions
Informal Discussion - 78 Stony Brook Lane
Norwell - House removal
Request for Determination - Lot 6 Canoe Club
Pembroke - New Home - Allowed

July 26, 2007

Informal Discussion - Water Street
Hanover - relocation of walking trail

August 23, 2007

Informal Discussion -504 Spring Street
Marshfield - Vegetative Cutting
Request for Determination-96 & 98 Meadowbrook
Norwell - Phragmite removal - Allowed
Request for Determination - 164 Riverside Drive
Marshfield - Dock - Continued
Request for Determination - 50 Maccombers Way
Marshfield - House replacement - Allowed
Request for Determination - 15 Blackthorne Lane
Norwell - Dock - Allowed

September 27, 2007

Request for Determination - 164 Riverside Circle
Marshfield - Dock - continued

October 25, 2007

Request for Determination - 164 Riverside Drive
Marshfield - Dock - Allowed
Norwell's NEW Mooring By-Law

The Town of Norwell mooring regulations have been established in order to promote the most efficient and optimum utilization of the North River by the boating public, to provide for the safety of moored and berthed vessels, and to protect the environment and water

Request for Determination - 79 Harbor Lane
Norwell - Addition - Allowed

Request for Determination - 111 Riverside Circle
Marshfield- Septic System update - Approved
Special Permit Hearing - 64 Stony Brook Lane
Norwell - Home renovation - Approved

November 29, 2007

Special Permit Hearing - 75 Collier Road
Scituate - Deck - Approved

December 20, 2007

Special Permit Hearing - 81 Collier Road
Scituate - Addition - Approved
Special Permit Hearing - Bridge Street
Norwell - Public Landing - Approved
Special Permit Hearing - Chittenden Lane
Norwell - Public Landing - Approved

North River Happenings:

No Discharge Areas (NDA) along the North River -
Jason Burtner from Coastal Zone Management CZM.
Scituate, Marshfield along with Cohasset are in the
process of designing a brochure about PUMPOUT
BOATS for the discharge of vessel sewage. Mr.
Burtner is working to educate Norwell, Pembroke and
Hanover and would like the North River
Commissioners support. We already support the
North River being a "No Discharge Area". Our Boat
Patrol Officer, Joe Strazdes is an advocate for the
boaters using the Pumpout boats along the North
River. The Protective Order, page 11 of Section 7
Prohibited Uses, (U) Discharge of any pollutants,
whether they be from point, nonpoint sources, or
water craft, into the Corridor unless in compliance
with federal and state law, subject to the jurisdiction
of the appropriate state and federal agencies;

quality. This shall be done by controlling the
placement of moorings and location of berthed
vessels, by establishing standards for mooring
tackle, and by providing for regular systematic
mooring inspections....**Applicability**...These
rules and regulations apply to (a) all moorings,
mooring tackle and equipment, floats that are
free floating, berths, and all other mooring and

berthing locations within the waters of the North River lying within the jurisdiction of the Town of Norwell and (b) all vessels and other objects moored or berthed within the waters of the North River lying within the jurisdiction of the Town of Norwell.

Applications... On or before February 15th the Town of Norwell shall have available mooring applications may be downloaded from the Town of Norwell website, to be picked up in person at the Town Clerk's Office, and to be sent out by mail upon telephone request made to the Town Clerk's Office ...All mooring permits shall be issued annually, shall be valid for the mooring year beginning on February 15 and ending on December 31st of the calendar year in which they were issued (unless revoked earlier by the Harbormaster for good cause), and must be renewed annually.

Permits... All moorings and berths (including but not limited to free-floating floats, docks, finger piers, etc.) must be registered with the Harbormaster, and a Mooring Permit approving the placement and location for each such mooring and berth must be received from the Harbormaster by May 15 of each year. Any mooring or berth not so registered by May 15 each year shall be cancelled and the mooring or berthing space shall be allocated to those on the waiting list. All Mooring Permits are for use only by the vessel identified on the permit issued....Mooring Permit shall be required for each vessel berthed on a mooring, float, or finger pier. Only one (1) mooring permit shall be issued for each vessel. Only one (1) vessel shall be moored or berthed on each mooring, finger pier, or float. *(This is only part of the new by-*

law, go to the Norwell Town Website or Town Clerk's Office for the complete bylaw).

Hanover Conservation Agent Patrick Gallivan notified the North River Commission about plans for the Herring Ladder at Luddams Ford Park in Hanover to be rebuilt.

Winter float storage on the marsh is not allowed as it can cause dieback of marsh.

Phragmites - The North River Commission has been meeting with residents who live along the river. They are asking us for a "Request For Determination" of an allowed use, after providing us with letters for proposed treatment for the elimination of phragmites.

River Structures - DOCKS - The size a dock and float are usually determined by the size of the marsh area around it and the footage along the river. Conservation Restrictions are being added on land along the North River that will limit docks in the area. We have then allow the dock to be larger. Some larger docks were built before the Protective Order.

The North River Commission, 24 West St, Norwell, MA 02061, 2nd floor, James Library. Open Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am - 1 pm, 781-659-7411 or contact us website www.nsrwa.org/NRC Meetings held on the 4th Thursday of each month. Norwell Town Offices, 345 Main St, Norwell, MA

**North River Commission
PO Box 612
Norwell, MA 02061**

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

Section 5. ALLOWED USES

The following are examples of some of the allowed uses in the Protective Order

(P) Commercial and non-commercial water-based outdoor recreation activities including swimming, fishing, motorized and non-motorized boating. Motorized boating shall be subject to the following limitations: (1) Boat speeds shall be limited above the Route 3A bridge to a maximum of 6 mph or “no wake” headway speed, whichever is lower. No boats shall be operated in a negligent or reckless manner.

Section 7. PROHIBITED USES

The following are examples of some of the prohibited uses

(C) Electrical generating units, communications towers;

(O) Signs including any outdoor sign, display, notice, placard, poster, billboard or any other device intended or used to advertise or inform, except Commission signs, official historic markers, official land use, traffic and boat traffic signs, trespass signs, or any signs less than

3 ½' X 3 ½' which are not visible from the river or any bridge crossing the river;

To view the complete Scenic and Recreations River Protective Order for the North River go to:

www.nsrwa.org/NRC