

North River Notes

Volume 13

2013

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Pembroke * Hanover * Hanson * Norwell * Marshfield * Scituate
Website: www.nrswa.org

Funded by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation

Ship Yard Tablets:

Back in 1919 a group of men who were strongly interested in the North River formed an association for the purpose of marking the shipyards along its banks. Comparatively few people knew the exact location of the different yards and these gentlemen felt that in view of the fact that as each year went by it would be more difficult to satisfactorily carry out this plan it would be better to get about it right away. The North River Historical association was organized with Luther Little of Sea View, president; Hugh Bancroft of Boston, vice president and J. S. Hathaway of Brookline, secretary and treasurer; 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 tablets were placed at ten of the principal yards. These tablets were so placed that they could easily be seen by the occupants of boats passing up or down the river. It is the intention of the association to mark other yards in the course of time.

The yards already marked are:

Barstow's Two Oaks, 1729 to 1838, more than 22 vessels of 37 to 340 tons.

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

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

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

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

Chittenden, 1690 to 1834 more than 51 vessels 20 to 301 tons.

Briggs' at Hobart's Landing, 1687 to 1845, more than 59 vessels of 16 to 400 tons.

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

White's Ferry, 1705 to 1839, more than 40 vessels of 21 to 395 tons.



To read the inscription: "More than fifty-nine vessels of 16 to 400 tons were built here." Does not mean much, but when we realize that one of these was the Columbia of 200 tons, the first vessel to carry the American Flag around the world and the first to explore the Columbia river in Oregon, it makes it seem quite different. The knowledge that one of the "British Tea Ships," the Beaver was built at one of the yards, that was the first vessel to carry the "Flag" into an English port came from the North River, that the old time North River vessels were to be found on every sea and in every distant port, all adds to the interest. The story of the ill-fated Essex is another chapter of river built vessels.

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

Old Time Anecdotes of the North River and South Shore by Joseph Foster Merritt, Rockland Standard Publishing Company, 1928.

The inscription mentioned above is located on a plaque over the North River between Hanover & Pembroke on the old stone bridge.



This picture was taken from Union Street in Marshfield, just over the Bridge coming from Bridge Street in Norwell.

Commission Decisions

January 26, 2012

Special Permit Hearing - SP 2/97 Amended
96 Stony Brook, Norwell
Plantings, Staircase & Second Floor

Informal Discussion
96 Old Bridge Road, Hanover
Existing Deck Renovation

February 23, 2012

Request for Determination - Allowed
49 Meadow Drive, Hanover
Vegetative Cutting for New Home

March 22, 2012

Certificate of Compliance - Issued
70 Damons Point, Marshfield
Addition & Garage

Informal Discussion
112 River Road, Hanover - Landscaping

April 26, 2012

Certificate of Compliance
83 Macomers Ridge, Marshfield - Issued
Renovations

96 Stony Brook Lane, Norwell - Issued
Septic & Raze existing Building

Request for Determination
70 Damons Point Rd. Marshfield - Allowed
Phragmites Removal

2 Washington St. Pembroke - Allowed
Existing Patio to enclosed Porch

112 River Road, Hanover - Allowed
Landscaping

170 Carolyn Circle, Marshfield - Allowed
Septic upgrade

Informal Discussion

11 Nathaniel Way, Marshfield
Renovation of existing Area

October 25, 2012

Request for Determination - Allowed
60 Canoe Club Lane, Pembroke,
Dock

May 24, 2012

Certificate of Compliance - Issued
56 Moorland Rd. Scituate
Driveway & Mudroom, Septic

November 15, 2012

Special Permit - Amend SP1/11
80 Old Meetinghouse Lane, Norwell
Modify existing Accessory Structure

Informal Discussion
1233 Union St. Marshfield,
Addition

December 20, 2012

Special Permit - 2/97 & 1/12 rescinded
96 Stony Brook Lane, Norwell

Special Permit - Issued
56 Moorland Rd. Scituate
Storage Building, Patio, Parking, Rain Garden

June 28, 2012

2013 Meeting Dates

Request for Determination - Allowed
Cornhill Lane (end), Marshfield
Invasive Species Control, Rain Garden

**The North River Commission Meets on the 4th
Thursday of each month at the Norwell Town Offices,
345 Main St., Norwell, MA 02061**

August 23, 2012

2012 Dates: June 27, July 25, August 22,

Special Permit Hearing - Issued
96 Stony Brook Lane, Norwell
Add Second Story

September 26, October 24,

due to holidays - November 21 & December 19.

Request for Determination

82 Old Meetinghouse Lane, Norwell - Allowed
Septic Upgrade

76 Brigantine Circle, Norwell - Allowed
Landscaping & Access

19 Nealgate St. Scituate - Allowed
Addition & Pool

September 27, 2012

Informal Discussion

83 Macomers Way, Marshfield,
Home Renovation



This was taken from the North River going under the Southeast Expressway.

Update on the Shipyard Tablets:

Most of the North River Shipyard Tablets can still be seen today from the North River, except two in Hanover. From Hanover 4 Corners head towards the river on Washington Street on your left take, Old Bridge Road, then right on Shipyard Lane. Smith Yard can be read near the cul-du-sac on the left. It is in need of restoration, any ideas? Nearby on private property is Barstow's Two-Oaks Shipyard tablet and cannot be seen from the roadway or river.

SHARE PICTURES

Would you like to send us any pictures you have taken of the North River Shipyard Tablets, if so send them to northrivercom@verizon.net or any other pictures of interest you have taken along the North River.



North River Commission has jurisdiction 300 feet starting at the Natural Bank:

The North River Commissions definition of “Natural Bank” is not the same as the river bank where the water ends. It is where the wetland vegetation turns to upland vegetation and the highest tide never goes that is 0’. The NRC has jurisdiction over the next 300’ away from the North River. The marsh and wetlands are part of the natural bank as they require a periodic flushing of water from the rise and fall of the tides.

NORTH RIVER COMMISSION

Scituate - Joseph Norton II - Chairman
Joseph Norton, Sr. - Alternate
Pembroke - James Hannon, Member
Willard Boulter - Alternate
Hanover - Daniel Jones - Member
John O’Leary - Alternate
Hanson - Charles Mann - Member
Edward Casey - Alternate
Norwell - Gary Thomas - Member
Dennis Mahoney - Alternate
Marshfield -Christopher Head - Member
Maryanne Leonard - Alternate
Boat Patrol Officer - Joseph Strazdes
Administrator - Judy Grecco

The North River Commission Office is located at 24 West St, Norwell, MA 02061, 2nd floor, James Library. Open Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am - 1 pm, 781-659-7411

Email any questions to: northrivercom@verizon.net

To view or print the complete Scenic and Recreational River Protective Order for the North River www.nsrwa.org
Go to the bottom of the page to find the North River Commission’s link.

