

November 14, 2024

Ms. Shannon Palmer
Conservation Officer
Hingham Conservation Board
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

**RE: Response to Review Comments
Proposed Raze and Rebuild
322 Rockland Street
Hingham, MA 02043**

Dear Ms. Palmer:

The purpose of this correspondence is to respond to outstanding review comments received in your email dated November 13, 2024. The following responses in bold/italics, related to the above project are offered for your review and consideration:

Comments by Shannon Palmer Email, dated 11/13/24

1. The original plan called for seeding with salt tolerant grass mix and the new plan includes salt marsh plugs "as necessary". Please clarify the intent of restoration proposal and how this will be determined.

The plan has been updated to remove the reference to salt marsh plugs "as necessary" and proposes that the historically mowed lawn area be restored naturally through the discontinuation of the mowing activities in that area.

2. Staff still has concerns regarding the replacement of shed and gravel area with loam and seed given the proximity to salt marsh and location in ACEC. It is reasonable to propose conversion of most of the existing driveway to lawn for access to the rear of residence which is an improvement however that back corner is not necessary for access as indicated in the narrative. Also, it may be beneficial to demarcate the limit of lawn / salt marsh to prevent continued inadvertent encroachment / mowing.

A note has been added to the plan to treat the area where the shed and gravel area with loam and allow it to revegetate naturally with native salt tolerant plants. Due to frequent inundations, typical turfgrass will not grow in this area (see photo's below).

HANOVER OFFICE:
427 Columbia Road
Hanover, MA 02339
781-826-9200

PLYMOUTH OFFICE:
40 Court Street, Ste 2A
Plymouth, MA 02360
508-746-6060

MARINE DIVISION:
26 Union Street
Plymouth, MA 02360
508-746-6060

FALMOUTH OFFICE:
448 N. Falmouth Highway Unit A
North Falmouth, MA 02556
508-563-2183

merrillinc.com





3. Staff also has concerns regarding the proposed patio and proximity to salt marsh and recommends this be reduced in size or relocated.
The proposed permeable bluestone patio has been set back 2.5' from the restored salt marsh area which will allow a lawnmower, etc to easily pass by. As part of the proposed project, the existing impervious paved driveway which is approximately 6" from the restored salt marsh area and a shed which extends into the existing salt marsh, will be completely removed to ensure the project as proposed will provide a substantial benefit to the adjacent resource areas and ACEC.

4. We have been researching similar projects in the flood zone (with and without foundations) and will provide a summary to the Commission for their consideration.
No comment.

We appreciate these comments and look forward to presenting these revised plans at the December 10th Planning Board meeting.

Sincerely,

Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors

Dana M. Altobello, P.E.
Senior Project Manager

cc: S. Linskey
File 24-041

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