

## PROJECT NARRATIVE

### Notice of Intent Application for 15 Merrill Street, Hingham Parcel ID: 11-0-5

#### Introduction

This Notice of Intent (NOI) is submitted for the proposed rehabilitation project at 15 Merrill Street, Hingham, to replace four steel piles supporting the float and remove/replace the existing longitudinal 4x8 bracing. The project site is located within Flood Zone VE 14 and is submitted in compliance with the **Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA)** (M.G.L. c. 131, § 40) and the **Town of Hingham Wetlands Protection Bylaw (HWR)**.

#### 1. Site Description

The project site is located along the coastline, with an existing pier supported by steel piles. The surrounding area contains the following resource areas, as defined by Hingham's Wetlands Bylaw:

- **Flood Zone VE 14 (LSCSF)**
- **Shellfish suitability areas**
- **Coastal Beach**
- **Land under the Ocean (work below MHW).**

The site is **not** located within mapped **Priority Habitat** or **Estimated Habitat for Rare Species** (MaNHESP), **Certified Vernal Pools**, or an **Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)**. The proposal accounts for these features to avoid impacts to sensitive resources.

#### 2. Proposed Activities

The project includes:

- Replacing 4 steel piles supporting the float.
- Removing and replacing the existing 4x8 longitudinal bracing.

Given the age and condition of the existing pier, the rehabilitation is necessary to maintain structural integrity. The following measures are incorporated to minimize environmental impact:

- **Non-toxic materials** for pile replacement to prevent contamination of marine habitats.
- **Spacing between piles** to reduce disruption to marine life.
- **Erosion and sediment control measures** (e.g., silt curtains) to protect coastal resources during construction.
- A **construction barge** will be used to minimize land disturbance.
- **Vibrational hammering** and a **slow hammer start** will be used to reduce noise, sediment disturbance, and impacts to marine life.
- **Spill containment** procedures will be in place to prevent contamination from construction activities.

### 3. Compliance with HWR and WPA Regulations

The project complies with the performance standards set forth by the **Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act** and the **Town of Hingham Wetlands Protection Bylaw (HWR)**, specifically in relation to:

- **Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF)**
- **Land Under Ocean (LUO)**
- **Land Containing Shellfish**
- **Coastal Beach/Tidal Flat**

The following measures ensure compliance with Hingham's bylaws:

- **Vibrational hammer** for pile removal and installation reduces impacts to marine life and sediment, as required under HWR 18.0 (Land Containing Shellfish).
- **Erosion controls** (silt curtains) will minimize sediment disturbance, in line with HWR 22.0 (Buffer Zones).
- **Slow hammer start** minimizes underwater noise and vibrations, complying with performance standards for LUO and shellfish habitat protection (HWR 18.0, HWR 23.0).

The project will also adhere to **best management practices** as outlined by the **Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)** to safeguard coastal resources, marine fisheries, and shellfish habitats.

### 4. Summary

The proposed rehabilitation of the pier at 15 Merrill Street follows best management practices to minimize environmental impacts and is designed in compliance with both the **Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act** and **Hingham Wetlands Protection Bylaw**. The project's proposed methods, including vibrational hammer, non-toxic materials, and erosion controls, will protect marine life, shellfish habitats, and surrounding coastal resources.

We respectfully request the issuance of an **approved Order of Conditions** for this project and look forward to collaborating with the Hingham Conservation Commission to ensure its successful implementation.