

Memorandum

November 14, 2025

Conservation Department
Attn: Ms. Shannon Palmer
Conservation Officer
Town of Hingham
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

RE: **Request for a Certificate of Completion**
16 South Pleasant Street
DEP# 034-1449

Hingham Conservation Department:

Enclosed, please find the following materials for a Certificate of Compliance Request:

- The Request for Certificate of Compliance WPA Form 8A for the Order of Conditions DEP# 034-1449
- A check for \$50.00 for the application fee
- The Town of Hingham CoC checklist
- The Town of Hingham's Policy on Receipt of Information
- The Town of Hingham's Voluntary 21 Day Waiver
- A Mitigation Planting Area Progress Report with planting receipt
- The As Built Plan, dated 1/30/25.

We believe the work was completed as approved in the Order of Conditions with the following minor deviations:

- A bluestone walkway and patio was added to the front of the dwelling that partially extends into the 100' buffer zone
- A small bluestone patio/walkway was added to connect the rear steps from the dwelling and the rear deck steps.
- The playset in the rear yard was removed.
- One of the two tulip trees was relocated to the rear yard between the dwelling and the resource area. This was moved because it was determined that there was not enough room for both trees where they were proposed, and to preserve the vegetation that had flourished in this area.

We believe these deviations do not adversely affect the intent of the Order of Conditions issued 9/1/22 and recorded at the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds (book 57432, page 96). The additional bluestone areas are located over developed lawn along the dwelling where foot traffic is heavy. The playset that was located within the 50' buffer was removed. The relocation of the tulip tree allows the mature plants in the originally proposed location to remain undisturbed, and the new location provides an additional buffer area between the limit of work and the resource area. As shown in the plating report, all the plants proposed in the mitigation planting areas were planted and appear to have survived. We believe the placement of the plantings and the removal of the playset offer benefits that offset

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

PLYMOUTH OFFICE:
362 Court Street
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

any potential adverse effects of the additional bluestone. Pictures, a Planting Progress report, and a planting receipt are attached.

On behalf of Matthew and Whitney Benson, we respectfully request that a Certificate of Compliance be issued for DEP# SE034-1449. If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Sullivan", written in a cursive style.

Brendan Sullivan
Project Manager

Attachment
Enclosure

Cc: M. & W. Benson
File 22-479

MITIGATION PLANTING AREA PROGRESS REPORT
16 South Pleasant Street
October 22, 2025

The site plan approved as part of the Order of Conditions for DEP #034-1449 included a mitigation planting list that included 30 plants and two tulip trees. The plants were to be placed in two locations with an estimated coverage of approximately 550 sf. As shown on the attached invoice from M.J. Nicholls Landscaping, LLC, all of the plants were purchased and installed in the Summer of 2023. The applicant is not aware of any plants not surviving. As indicated in the attached pictures, the planting areas appear to be thriving in an undisturbed state. The two tulip trees were also installed and appear to be thriving.

M.J. Nicholls Landscaping, LLC
 139 Howard Street
 Braintree, MA 02184

Invoice

Date	Invoice #
7/24/2023	174504

Bill To:
 Whitney Benson
 16 South Pleasant St.
 Hingham, MA. 02043

S.O. No.	Rep	Project
29870	MJN1	

Quantity	Description	Rate	Amount
1	Clearing and preparing the locations of the wetland mitigation plantings.	925.00	925.00
5	Spreading compost with the new plantings. priced per yard.	150.00	750.00
4	Sweet Pepper Bush 12-18"	100.00	400.00
4	Inkberry Holly 12-18"	110.00	440.00
4	Winterberry 3-4'	300.00	1,200.00
4	High Bush Blueberry 24-30"	90.00	360.00
5	Joe Pye Weed 3-4'	300.00	1,500.00
4	Pussy Willow 4-5'	510.00	2,040.00
5	Swamp Azalea 3 gal.	130.00	650.00
2	Tulip Tree 5-6'	550.00	1,100.00
7	Spreading pine bark mulch in the mitigation beds 4" thick (Brown). Priced per yard. (Does NOT include preparation of the beds.)	150.00	1,050.00
1	Adjusting the drainage pipes to be run to all gutters or adjusted to fit the bottom of the gutters correctly. (1 man 6 hours) \$113 pipe & fittings	473.00	473.00

Payment is due upon receipt. Please make checks payable to M.J. Nicholls Landscaping, LLC. Invoices over 60 days past due will have a 1.5% finance charge applied. If there are any billing or service related disputes they must be addressed within 5 days of receipt for resolution or the initial bill will stand.

Total	\$10,888.00
Payments/Credits	\$0.00
Balance Due	\$10,888.00

2025 PHOTOS – 16 South Pleasant Street

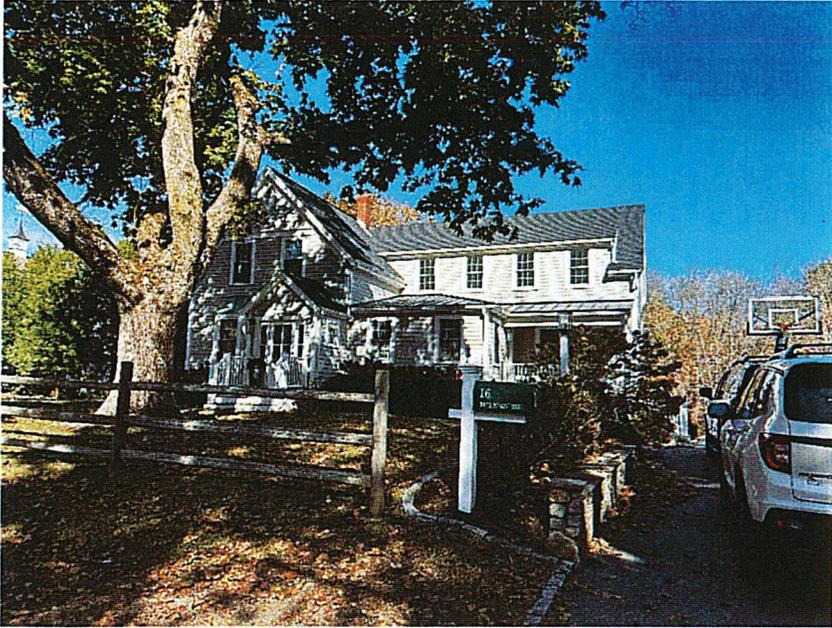


Photo 1. - Front of dwelling.



Photo 3. - Shed and mitigation planting areas. A playset located to the left of the shed was removed.



Photo 3. - Bluestone walkway between dwelling and driveway.



Photo 4. - Bluestone patio between rear exit and deck steps.



Photo 5. Rear planting area and tulip tree.



TOWN OF HINGHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

VOLUNTARY 21 DAY WAIVER
(Request for COC)

As set forth under the MA Wetlands Protection Act Regulations, 310 CMR 10.05(9), and the Town of Hingham Wetland Regulations, Section 7.12(a), the Conservation Commission is required to issue a Certificate of Compliance within 21 days of receipt of a WPA Form 8A and statement that work, subject to the Final Order of Conditions, has been satisfactorily completed. The Commission may also refuse to issue a Certificate of Compliance if it determines that the work has not been completed in compliance with the Order.

Due to the Commission's established meeting schedule the Conservation Commission is unable to act on the request within the statutory deadline and hereby requests the applicant waive the aforementioned 21 day requirement. If you choose to waive this deadline, your request will still be heard and decided upon in a timely manner.

The undersigned hereby waives the 21 day time period for the Commission to issue a Certificate of Compliance until: 11/3/25
Date

For the following application: 16 So. Pleasant
Address
034-1449
DEP File No/Local By-Law No.

Matthew Benson
Applicant Signature

Matthew Benson
Print

November 3, 2025
Date

HINGHAM WETLAND REGULATIONS

APPENDIX C

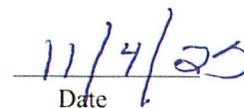
Policy on Receipt of Information

(Revised March 4, 2024)

1. New applications/filings must be submitted to the Conservation office (by certified mail or hand delivery) two weeks prior to the meeting date, on Monday by noon, to facilitate the placement of the legal ad and to allow timely review by the Conservation Officer (if the office is closed on Monday due to a holiday, then the information is due on the preceding Friday by noon). Conservation staff will review the application for administrative completeness. Upon receipt of a complete application, a hearing or meeting will be scheduled in accordance with the 310 CMR 10.05(5) and the Wetland Regulations, Section 7.6.
2. If deemed necessary, based on the Commission's meeting schedule, Conservation staff may request the applicant *voluntarily* waive the 21 day statutory deadline for holding a public hearing or issuing a Determination of Applicability.
3. Requests for additional information may be made by the Commission members or their agent to clarify the scope of the project or determine compliance with the 310 CMR 10.00 and/or the Hingham Wetland Regulations. Such requests, if not made at the public hearing, will be communicated to the applicant or their representative as promptly as possible.
4. Additional information requested by the Commission or their agent in accordance with No.3, must be submitted to the Conservation office a minimum of 7 days prior to the meeting date, on Monday by noon. If the office is closed on Monday due to a holiday, the information is due on the preceding Friday by noon. *Revisions submitted after the established deadline may not receive a review, thereby resulting in a continuance to the next available meeting.*
5. The Commission may engage the peer review services of an outside consultant as provided by M.G.L. Ch. 44, § 53G, to be paid for by the applicant, for specific expert review deemed necessary to come to a final decision on a submitted application. Specific consultant services may include but are not limited to, review of a Notice of Intent, Wetland Resource Area Delineation, Stormwater/Drainage Reports, etc. The consultant shall be chosen by the Conservation Commission by vote at the public hearing, and report only to the Commission or its agent. *Requested additional information/revisions by the peer reviewer is required a minimum of two weeks prior to the hearing date.*
5. All supplemental documentation and revised plans must include a revision date and must be date stamped by the Conservation office upon receipt. If this information is not present, the documents may be considered incomplete and may not receive a timely review, thereby resulting in a continuance to the next available meeting.
6. Please note that all supplemental documentation and revised plans submitted to the Commission for a pending application, subject to the MA Wetlands Protection Act, must also be sent to the DEP Southeast Regional Office, 20 Riverside Dr., Lakeville, MA 02347

The Hingham Conservation Commission is committed to a thorough and timely review of each application and an efficient hearing process. Cooperation with this policy is appreciated to facilitate these efforts. Exceptions to this policy may be made by the Conservation staff if deemed warranted. Please sign and include with your filing. Thank you.


Applicant or Applicant's Representative Signature


Date



WPA Form 8A – Request for Certificate of Compliance

034-1449

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

Provided by DEP

A. Project Information

Important:

When filling out forms on the computer, use only the tab key to move your cursor - do not use the return key.



Upon completion of the work authorized in an Order of Conditions, the property owner must request a Certificate of Compliance from the issuing authority stating that the work or portion of the work has been satisfactorily completed.

1. This request is being made by:

MATTHEW J. AND WHITNEY E. BENSON

Name

10 SOUTH PLEASANT STREET

Mailing Address

HINGHAM

City/Town

MA

State

02043

Zip Code

Phone Number

2. This request is in reference to work regulated by a final Order of Conditions issued to:

MATTHEW J AND WHITNEY E BENSON

Applicant

9/1/22

Dated

034-1449

DEP File Number

3. The project site is located at:

16 SOUTH PLEASANT STREET

Street Address

137

Assessors Map/Plat Number

HINGHAM

City/Town

17

Parcel/Lot Number

4. The final Order of Conditions was recorded at the Registry of Deeds for:

Property Owner (if different)

PLYMOUTH

County

57432

Book

96

Page

Certificate (if registered land)

5. This request is for certification that (check one):

the work regulated by the above-referenced Order of Conditions has been satisfactorily completed.

the following portions of the work regulated by the above-referenced Order of Conditions have been satisfactorily completed (use additional paper if necessary).

the above-referenced Order of Conditions has lapsed and is therefore no longer valid, and the work regulated by it was never started.



WPA Form 8A – Request for Certificate of Compliance

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

A. Project Information (cont.)

6. Did the Order of Conditions for this project, or the portion of the project subject to this request, contain an approval of any plans stamped by a registered professional engineer, architect, landscape architect, or land surveyor?

Yes If yes, attach a written statement by such a professional certifying substantial compliance with the plans and describing what deviation, if any, exists from the plans approved in the Order.

No

B. Submittal Requirements

Requests for Certificates of Compliance should be directed to the issuing authority that issued the final Order of Conditions (OOC). If the project received an OOC from the Conservation Commission, submit this request to that Commission. If the project was issued a Superseding Order of Conditions or was the subject of an Adjudicatory Hearing Final Decision, submit this request to the appropriate DEP Regional Office (see <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/about/contacts/find-the-massdep-regional-office-for-your-city-or-town.html>).