

November 14, 2024

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

**RE: Request for Minor Modification to Order of Conditions (SE 034-1505)  
322 Rockland Street, Hingham, MA 02043**

Dear Ms. Palmer:

On behalf of the Applicant, Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors requests a minor modification to the above Order of Conditions to clarify that the approved patio was to be elevated above the existing grade to avoid some of the higher tide events. The intention was always to have the patio elevated as shown on the attached Architectural Plans and the site was designed to set the patio back from the restored salt marsh 2.5' to allow a standard lawnmower to easily pass by as shown below in an excerpt from the response letter that was submitted to the Commission dated 11/14/24:

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.*

The site design as approved provided substantial improvements over the previous site conditions including:

- A reduction in degraded riverfront area (RFA) of -1,457± S.F. (-1,406± S.F. within 0-50' of resource area)
- Restoration of 2,160± S.F. of historically mowed salt marsh.
- Removal of an existing shed from within the resource areas and a gravel area directly adjacent to the resource areas.
- Removal of 1,150± S.F. of impervious driveway which was as close 0.6' to the wetland resource areas.
- The proposed structures were reduced in area, set further from the wetland resource areas than the previous structures and were reconstructed in accordance with the state building code for construction within a flood hazard area.

The patio being elevated will not have any adverse impact on any of the wetland resource areas on site. By elevating the patio, it should keep guests on the patio and decrease any inadvertent foot traffic into the restored salt marsh area that would occur with an at-grade patio. Additionally, by raising the patio elevation, it



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](http://merrillinc.com)



would alleviate the potential for any items that are accidentally left on the patio to float away and potentially cause damage during extreme tide events.



Thank you for your consideration on this matter, we look forward to discussing this further with the Commission at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Conservation Commission hearing.

Sincerely,

**Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Altobello". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

---

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

Enclosures: Architectural Plans by Kearney|Pierce Architects, dated 3/27/24

cc: S. Linskey  
File 24-041