

Notice of Intent

483 East Broadway

Haverhill, MA 01830

May 18, 2022 Rev 04/02/26

The project location includes an approximate 3.11 acre parcel. It contains an existing home constructed in 1987 and lawn/landscaped areas. An existing path runs from rear of the house to the riverfront area along the Merrimack River.



Project Description

The applicant is requesting to receive a permit for a seasonal residential dock installation for access to the Merrimack River. The dock will be no larger than 600 square feet total, most likely a L-shaped floating dock connected to the land with a ramp (gangway and a concrete footer approximately 5' by 5' and anchored into the ground with rebar pins at each corner. A hinge pin set into the footer will attach to the gangway on land and wheels under the gangway and above the dock will compensate for tidal shifts. The dock will be anchored with concrete blocks and chains and/or helical screws and chains as the riverbed permits. Helical screws will be preferred should riverbed allow. Accessory floating platforms may be installed to accommodate personal watercraft. Floats will include feet to prevent them from bottoming out in low tide situations.

In addition, the applicant is requesting to improve an existing path that leads to the river. The proposed project includes applying a couple of inches of washed stone (with no fines) on the existing path. The applicant would like to construct crossings at 3 identified wetlands that intersect the path. Construction activities will be limited to the immediate crossing area and will be conducted using hand tools or small

equipment to minimize disturbance to the surrounding wetland. The design maintains existing hydrologic connectivity and does not alter wetland elevations or drainage patterns.

The proposed crossing is intended to provide safe pedestrian access while minimizing impacts to wetland resource areas in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

Crossing WF-B

The applicant proposes to construct a 4-foot-wide pedestrian trail crossing over a bordering vegetated wetland (BVW). The crossing will consist of an approximately 10-foot-long compacted gravel trail section supported by structural fill and a round culvert pipe to maintain existing hydrology. 2 12" round HDPE culverts will be used for sufficient flow and following the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards. The pipe will be set on a gravel bedding layer and partially embedded to maintain natural substrate continuity within the culvert.

Crossing WF-C

The applicant proposes to construct a 4-foot-wide pedestrian trail crossing over a bordering vegetated wetland (BVW). The crossing will consist of an approximately 20-foot-long compacted gravel trail section supported by structural fill and a round culvert pipe to maintain existing hydrology. 3 12" culverts will be used for sufficient flow and to allow for embedment following the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards

Crossing WF-D

The applicant proposes to construct a 32 foot boardwalk no more than 4' width and elevated at least 2' so that water may flow unrestricted, and vegetation may grow over a Wooded Marsh area. The disturbance should be limited to about 0.00057 acres for a single footing.

All of the crossing locations were selected at the narrowest practical wetland width to minimize impacts. The wetland does not contain a perennial stream channel). Existing grades gently slope toward the drainage swale.

Replacement wetland will be added to WF-B and WF-C for the impact area of the crossing of the crossings at a 1:1 ratio and at the same elevation. Native plants will be added in both locations.

	Length	Width	Area
WF-B	17	5	85
WF-C	28	5	140
WF-D			0

Wooden stairs will also be constructed to descend approximately 5 feet from the top of an existing earthen berm to the concrete dock footer allowing for safe access to the dock. Gravel would be spread on areas of the path not to exceed a width of 4 feet outside of identified wetland areas.

Resource Areas and protected habitats:

The riverfront area was established utilizing observation and available maps from the City of Haverhill GIS and MA GIS platforms. The project is water dependent so the dock must be installed within the riverfront area and no alternatives are available.

Impacts were limited by selecting an area for the dock that requires limited vegetation removal and is generally open. No trees will need to be removed for this project. Access to the dock area is provided from the existing path.

At the recommendation of Conservation the project includes installing a boardwalk over a wooded wetland area. The terrain is such that the boardwalk would terminate on both ends outside of the wetland. The remainder of the project is installing a seasonal floating dock.

Proposed Work:

Proposed Work

The proposed work includes:

1. Installation of erosion and sediment controls at the downgradient limits of disturbance.
2. Placement of non-woven geotextile over existing wetland soils.
3. Installation of 12 inch diameter HDPE centered beneath the crossing.
4. Embedding the culvert 3-6 inches below existing channel grade (if a defined channel is present).
5. Placement and compaction of structural fill in lifts.
6. Construction of a 4-foot-wide gravel trail surface.
7. Installation of riprap aprons at culvert inlet and outlet.
8. Restoration and stabilization of disturbed wetland edges with native seed mix.

All work will occur within clearly flagged limits of disturbance.

Data from MassGIS shows the location to be within wetlands and priority habitat. A copy of this Notice of Intent has been forwarded to NHESP and to the Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries for review and comment.

Photo 1: Existing Path



Photo 2: Location of boardwalk



Photo 4: Example of proposed boardwalk construction:



Photo 5 : Dock and stairway Location

