

HUGHES ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

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September 21, 2021

Brian Colleran, Chair
Newbury Conservation Commission
Town of Newbury
Town Hall
12 Kent Way
Byfield, MA 01922.

Dear Chairman Colleran and Members of the Commission:

David Manty filed a Notice of Intent for a walkway and dock under DEP file number 050-1330. The original filing had hand drawn plans with little information on the construction and design details. We have since supplemented the filing with a plan that is based on field survey of the site, and provided design details to show the steps taken to minimize and avoid impacts. NHESP has issued a no take letter on the project.

DMF provided comments that have been incorporated into the project design. The float will be constructed with adjustable skids to ensure adequate clearance at low tide, will use helical anchors and elastic rodes to avoid impacts to the flats. The walkway has been minimized to a L shape walkway with thruflow decking, constructed at a 1.5:1 height to width ratio. The walkway will be constructed on helical posts, installed by hand. There will be no excavation required.

We have followed up with DEP regarding their comments and they have reached out to Commission Staff. DEP has indicated that as designed, constructed with 2 inch post maximum size and elevated 1.5x height to width above the marsh that the project does not require an independent Water Quality Certification and would be acceptable to them.

Finally, the project qualifies for an SVN under the Army Corps.

In response to Commission comments during the last hearing, we are proposing to limit access to the property by installation of a locking gate at the top of the ramp. We will be providing a locking gate at the water side of the platform with a combination lock or a lockbox. Access will be limited to people with permission only. The plan is to make access available to public safety and environmental groups that have a valid research or restoration project requiring access. This would include the Harbormaster, the Conservation Agent, Refuge Staff, Greenbelt Staff, Audubon, etc... For example, Mr. Manty recently granted Audubon permission to spray for pepper weed on the property.

We are conserving salt marsh productivity by the use of small pipe based piles (less than 2 inches) and placing those piles in areas of sparser vegetation. We are incorporating both 1.5 to 1 elevation and thruflow decking to provide for health salt marsh vegetation under the structure.

In conclusion, DEP has communicated to staff that they are ok with our plans provided the walkway is elevated at 1.5 to 1 and uses no larger than 2 inch posts. Our design does incorporate those elements and we ask the Commission to issue an order of conditions

Sincerely,



Thomas G. Hughes, BS MA

Cc: Kyle Lally, MADEP