

Guidelines for docks and piers in the Town of Marshfield

2020

To whom this may concern,

The construction and permitting of a dock can be a daunting process. The Conservation Commission, North River Commission and Harbormaster do our utmost to assist applicants with the permitting aspect of the process. The Commission, Administrator and Harbormaster are not able to provide construction, specification, or engineering guidance. Site selection, engineering design, zoning, navigable waterways concerns, environmental regulations all come into play in construction. Expect timelines from start to finish with capable engineers, wetland scientists and builders typically to be two to three seasons. Although it is certainly possible for a private citizen to navigate the permitting process, most find professional assistance is extremely helpful.

Below and attached, is guidance for preparing a satisfactory permit submittal.

- Marshfield Conservation Permit Documents for completing a Notice of Intent filing with the Conservation Department
- Conservation Permit Checklist (please pay attention to pages 1,3,4 & 5)
- WPA Form 3/Notice of Intent (NOI) with instructions
- A list of suggested registered land surveyors, professional engineers and wetlands consultants.

The Conservation Commission typically meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. You can confirm the schedule on the calendar listed on the Conservation website at <https://www.marshfield-ma.gov/conservation-commission> or contact the Conservation Office at (781) 834-5573 or email lanoja@townofmarshfield.org for confirmation of scheduled dates.

As per our bylaw wetlands regulations, Chapter 505, submittals of all the required information must be received by 12 noon, 2 weeks in advance of the public hearing you wish to schedule for your proposed work within Marshfield Conservation jurisdictional boundaries. After a review of the submitted materials, you may be required to submit additional information which is due 12 noon the Friday before the scheduled meeting.

Please consult Town of Marshfield By-Laws, Article 32 for general waterway information

Information is meant for guidance, each project is unique, please consult the regulations for your exact requirements. Applicants should plan on submitting to the Marshfield Conservation Commission an engineered, stamped plan that is in compliance with **all** federal, state, local by-laws, Chapter 505's, and regulations. Some projects may require additional information, including, but not limited to, potential use of third parties, and mitigation. Please anticipate that a project dock walk with Marshfield Conservation Commission, Harbormaster and North River Commission will need to occur at low tide prior to your hearing. The project walk shall NOT occur until a satisfactory engineered, stamped plan has been received. All plans should be numbered and dated, with any revisions with dates clearly shown.

- Massachusetts Small docks and piers guideline:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/permitting-small-pile-supported-docks-and-piers-guidance/download>

- Massachusetts Frequent Q and A for small dock permitting:

<https://www.mass.gov/guides/waterways-permitting-frequently-asked-questions>

- See Attachment for dock construction entitled "Suggestions for Pier and Dock"

- * Property lines field staked; setbacks shown
- * Zoning data
- * Chapter 61 delineations, should any apply
- * NHESP priority habitat compiled from mass GIS information
- * Surveyed property line information, riparian info if necessary
- * Show on plan clear definition of current field tree lines and proposed pathway
- * Show on plan and field stake limit of salt water marsh
- * Show on plan limit of phragmites
- * Field stake, show on plan, pathway through woods/wetlands that occurs once in buffer zone

- * Field stake and show on plan from catwalk start to edge of marsh
- * No pilings in river, if in the North River
- * In notes section, “no fill placed in salt water marsh or within buffer zone” without additional permitting
- * Last piling in marsh back far enough from edge of marsh to prevent peat fracture when driven, location shown on drawing of distance back
- * Dock box field staked; floating dock field staked
- * Pilings shall be mechanically driven. No piles jetted
- * Tree locations to site plan and field tag trees to assure that there is no tree removal as part of project
- * MLW line to drawing 50 ft. on either side of the proposed float location
- * MHW line on drawing
- * Add locations of current mooring balls in dock vicinity with distances to dock float at MHW to be shown
- * Setbacks to navigable channel
- * Hydrographic survey information: method, date, time, tide height, ebb or flow
- * Tidal location, were tidal offsets computed from
- * What datum elevations are based on
- * Cross section of aluminum longitudinal gangway section with build specifications
- * Cross section of float with construction details
- * Cross section of helical screws, concrete stops with shackle and rode dimensions if used
- * Mooring block type (if applicable) concrete, granite, weight
- * Cross section of pier if cross bracing will be put on bents, if so, which bents and lumber spec
- * Call out exact dimensions of wood to be used
- * Call out of type of pressure treated wood used
- * Show all elevations

- * All construction from a barge shall be done with a minimum of two feet of water below it at all times or from land
- * Not barge to rest on flats during any tides
- * No mechanized boat when less than 2.5 feet of water under float at MLW.
- * No chain used in river
- * Specifically consult with Harbormaster (although more may be needed)
 - Shellfish mitigation plan development, if needed
 - Allowed distance of float into channel
 - Allowed distance from other boats and or moorings
 - Navigable waterways issues
 - By Laws Article 32

Design and drawing may require additional information for permitting of any specific project. It is not the role of the Commission or Harbormaster to design individual docks. It is the responsibility of the applicant, engineer or other scientists to provide the necessary information for the Commissions, Harbormaster and agencies to make proper permitting decisions.

Kind regards,

James Kilcoyne, Chairman

Marshfield Conservation Commission

Michael DiMeo

Marshfield Harbormaster