

June 1, 2026

Shannon Palmer
Conservation Officer
Hingham Town Hall
210 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

**RE: Response to Review Comments
Proposed Sports Court and Retaining Wall
14 Seal Cove Road
Hingham, MA 02043**

Dear Shannon:

The purpose of this correspondence is to respond to outstanding review comments related to the project at 14 Seal Cove Road.

The following responses in **bold** follow each comment for your review and consideration:

Comments by Shannon Palmer, Conservation Agent, dated 5/26/26

Notice of Intent

1. The narrative (or Wetland Memo) does not sufficiently describe the coastal resource areas in the vicinity of the proposed work or how resource areas were delineated (i.e. Salt Marsh and Coastal Bank). Please expand.

Response: More details on the location of Salt Marsh and Coastal Bank have been provided in the project narrative. The Salt Marsh was located by Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors and is now shown the plan; it extends to the bottom of the riprap seawall at its closest point. The Coastal Bank is located further landward at the top of the riprap seawall according to the delineation methods described in DEP Policy 92-1. In this case, Figure 4 of this policy applies to the location of the FEMA Flood Zone Boundary.

2. Please provide more details on all proposed work within the Buffer Zone and LSCSF (e.g. retaining wall height and material, sports court surface and installation requirements, infiltration system). Also, is lighting or fencing proposed?

Response:

- **The proposed sports court will consist of a 4.0" thick 4,000 PSI concrete slab with fiber mesh and air entrainment. The base for the slab will be 6.0" (+/-) of $\frac{3}{4}$ " compacted, washed crushed stone.**
- **The retaining wall will be a maximum exposed height of 4 feet. The wall will be a natural stone wall with mortar and weep holes.**
- **The trench drains will be Tuff Tight TR-1 boxes at both ends of the court which will collect all runoff and direct to the subsurface infiltration system**



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



- **The Subsurface infiltration system will consist of Cultec C-100 chambers and crushed stone. More information has been included in the detail on the Site Plan.**
 - **The existing fencing along the easement line will be replaced with a 4.5 feet tall black aluminum fence with a gate for easement access.**
 - **A light post is proposed on the house side of the proposed sport court.**
3. The plan depicts the “approximate top of Coastal Bank”. Per the Resource Area Delineation Policy, Coastal Banks shall be delineated in accordance with the Wetland Program Policy 92-1 and the following information should be submitted with the application: the coastal bank should be delineated and mapped on a plan(s) to a scale of not greater than 1 inch = 50 feet, including a plan view and a cross section(s) if the area being delineated showing the slope profile, the linear distance used to calculate the slope profile, and the location of this linear distance. Also, the delineation description must indicate which of the five diagrams included in the program policy Coastal Bank Figures 1-7 is (are) representative of the site.

Response: The appropriate cross section for this Coastal Bank (Figure 4, DEP Policy 92-1) is now included on the Site Plan. The Site Plan shows slopes greater than 10:1 seaward of the FEMA Flood Line, therefore figure 4 applies.

4. Although not physically flagged due to tidal conditions, the Salt Marsh should be delineated shown on the plan as work is within 100 feet.

Response: The Salt Marsh was located by Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors and is now shown on the Site Plan.

Buffer Zone Mitigation

5. Please provide a more detailed planting plan and plant schedule per the Buffer Zone Mitigation Policy.

Response: A planting sketch is now provided by Brickstone Landscaping

6. The Plan proposed Rosa Rugosa which is not native. Please correct to native Virginia Rose (Rosa virginiana)

Response: The landscape sketch proposes Rosa virginiana instead of Rosa Rugosa.

7. Staff recommends the plants be diversified to include other native salt tolerant grasses and shrubs.

Response: A diverse selection of plantings are now provided on the landscape sketch.

8. The mitigation planting area should be closest to resource area (the planting bed around the sports court would not be counted as mitigation).

Response: The mitigation area along the sea wall has been expanded to make up the entire required mitigation area.

We appreciate the thoughtful review and comments and look forward to presenting the revised materials to you and the Board at our hearing scheduled on 6/08/26.



Merrill Engineers and Land Surveyors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Sullivan".

Brendan Sullivan
Project Manager

Enclosures

cc: L. Monfredo
File 24-215.1