

# AMORY ENGINEERS, P.C.

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July 20, 2020

Ms. Emily Wentworth, Senior Planner/Zoning Administrator  
Hingham Zoning Board of Appeals  
210 Central Street  
Hingham, MA 02043

Subject: **302-304 Whiting Street – Comprehensive Permit**

Dear Ms. Wentworth:

This is to advise that we have reviewed the letter from the Hingham Board of Health (BOH), dated July 16, 2020, the List of Waivers, revised July 20, 2020 and the letter from James Engineering, Inc., dated July 20, 2020. We offer the following comments:

1. The proposed septic system designs at 302 and 304 Whiting Street are in full compliance with 310 CMR 15 The State Environmental Code, Title 5 and will afford the protection of public health as required therein.
  - a. The systems are not within a Nitrogen Sensitive area as defined by Title 5. Therefore, the 10,000 square foot per bedroom requirement for Nitrogen sensitive areas is not applicable.
  - b. The proposed soil absorption systems at about 141.4 feet and 124.8 feet from the private potable well at 300 Whiting Street are greater than the Title 5 minimum required setback of 100 feet.
  - c. Groundwater flow beneath the proposed soil absorption systems would be toward the perennial stream/wetlands and away from the private well at 300 Whiting Street.
2. In the List of Waivers, the waiver from Section 21.1 of the Hingham Wetland Regulations (HWR) is strictly for the definition of the mean annual high-water line of a non-tidal river (boundary of the Riverfront Area). The HWR defines the mean annual high-water line as “the outer (landmost) boundary of any Bordering Vegetated Wetland that may be adjacent to the river.” In the Wetland Protection Act (WPA) the mean annual high-water line is defined as “the line that is apparent from visible markings or changes in the character of soils or vegetation due to the prolonged presence of water and that distinguishes between predominantly aquatic and predominantly terrestrial land. Field indicators of bankfull conditions shall be used to determine the mean annual high-water line... in most rivers, the first observable break in slope is coincident with bankfull

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conditions and the mean annual high-water line.” The 100-foot inner and 200-foot outer riparian lines shown on the plans are based on the state/WPA definition of the mean annual high-water line of the stream. The 100-foot buffer from bordering vegetated wetlands shown on the plans would be the 100-foot inner riparian line under the HWR. Regardless of which line is used to delineate the mean annual high-water line, all proposed structures, utilities and impervious surfaces are located outside the 100-foot inner riparian zone. The project will improve the 100-foot inner riparian zone by removing the existing house and septic system from within it. To further improve the 100-foot inner riparian zone we suggest that the area be restored to its natural state.

Please give us a call should you have any question.

Very truly yours,

AMORY ENGINEERS, P.C.

By:



Patrick G. Brennan, P.E.

PGB