

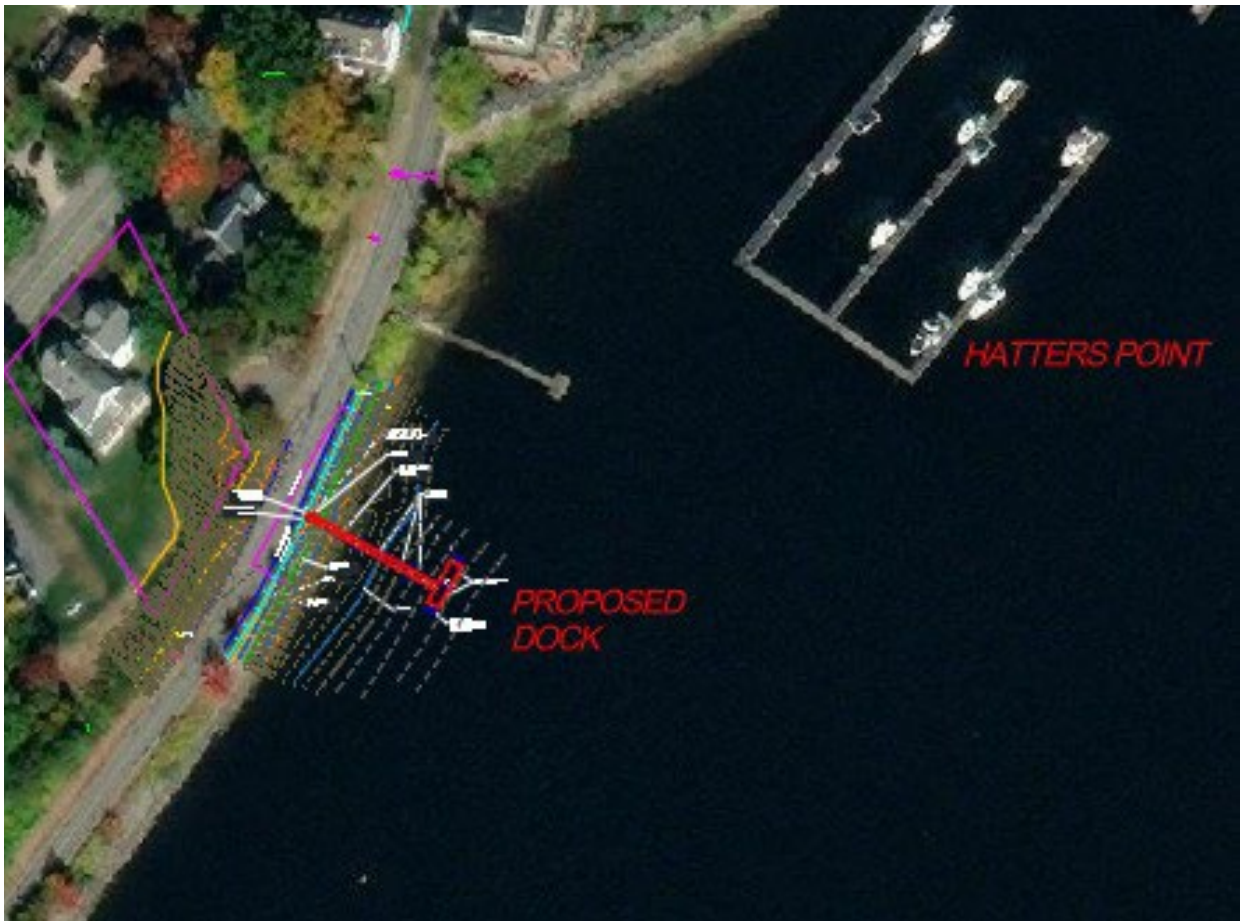
Project Narrative for Proposed Float
4 Pleasant Valley Road, Amesbury Ma.
Dated: March 13, 2025

Site Location & Description

The subject site is an approximate 14,451 S.F. parcel of land between Pleasant Vally Road and the Merrimack River. The float will be located just behind the guardrail along the bank of the Merrimack River.

Project Description

The applicants, Gary Willaims, proposes to install a small float system in the Merrimack River. The dock will consist of a small, elevated platform with a seasonal ramp and bottom anchored float will be installed and attached to the platform. The floats will be anchored with helical anchors if they can be installed. Should the substrate prove to be too course, habitat mooring blocks will be used. Elastic rodes or elastic nylon with chains will connect the anchors to the float system in a manner that prevents chains from hitting or resting on the bottom. The seasonal floats will include float stops to keep floats 18" clear above river bottom.



PROPSOED FLOAT LOCATION

Site Photographs



Looking down from the proposed platform location



Side view of proposed dock location

Resource Area Delineation Methodology

In August of 2024 MEI conducted an extensive review of existing aerial mapping, online resource area mapping, and completed an initial site walk. It was determined that the following resource areas existed onsite or in immediate close proximity:

- 1) 310 CMR 10.25: Land Under Ocean
- 2) 310 CMR 10.54; Bank
- 3) 310 CMR 10.58: Riverfront Area
- 4) 310 CMR 10.57: Land Subject to Flooding
- 5) On or within Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife, for Coastal Wetlands (310 CMR 10.37)

Compliance with Performance Standards & Presumption of Significance

The applicant acknowledges that the resource areas identified above are present on their site and are significant to storm damage prevention and the protection of the wetland values listed in Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Compliance, to the maximum extent feasible, with those performance standards has been demonstrated as follows:

310 CMR 10.56 Land Under Water Bodies

Performance Standards are spelled out in subsections (3) through (7).

(3) Improvement dredging for navigational purposes affecting land under the ocean shall be designed and carried out using the best available measures so as to minimize adverse effects on such interests caused by changes in:

- (a) bottom topography which will result in increased flooding or erosion caused by an increase in the height or velocity of waves impacting the shore;*
- (b) sediment transport processes which will increase flood or erosion hazards by affecting the natural replenishment of beaches;*
- (c) water circulation which will result in an adverse change in flushing rate, temperature, or turbidity levels; or*
- (d) marine productivity which will result from the suspension or transport of pollutants, the smothering of bottom organisms, the accumulation of pollutants by organisms, or the destruction of marine fisheries habitat or wildlife habitat.*

The project does not include any dredging.

(4) Maintenance dredging for navigational purposes affecting land under the ocean shall be designed and carried out using the best available measures so as to minimize adverse effects on such interests caused by changes in marine productivity which will result from the suspension or transport of pollutants, increases in turbidity, the smothering of bottom organisms, the accumulation of pollutants by organisms, or the destruction of marine fisheries habitat or wildlife habitat.

The project does not include any dredging.

(5) Projects not included in 310 CMR 10.25(3) or (4) which affect nearshore areas of land under the ocean shall not cause adverse effects by altering the bottom topography so as to

increase storm damage or erosion of coastal beaches, coastal banks, coastal dunes, or salt marshes.

The project is to install a float system and will not adversely affect bottom topography. The project makes use of helical anchors and not adversely affect the bottom topography.

(6) Projects not included in 310 CMR 10.25(3) which affect land under the ocean shall if water-dependent be designed and constructed, using best available measures, so as to minimize adverse effects, and if non-water-dependent, have no adverse effects, on marine fisheries habitat or wildlife habitat caused by:

(a) alterations in water circulation;

The location of the floats will not affect water circulation.

*(b) destruction of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) or widgeon grass (*Ruppia maritima*) beds;*

There are no eelgrass beds in the vicinity of the proposed work.

(c) alterations in the distribution of sediment grain size;

There should be no alteration of no sediment in the area of the proposed floats or anchors.

(d) changes in water quality, including, but not limited to, other than natural fluctuations in the level of dissolved oxygen, temperature or turbidity, or the addition of pollutants; or

The project will not affect water quality.

(d) alterations of shallow submerged lands with high densities of polychaetes, mollusks or macrophytic algae.

There are no high densities of these species in this area.

(7) Notwithstanding the provisions of 310 CMR 10.25(3) through (6), no project may be permitted which will have any adverse effect on specified habitat sites of rare vertebrate or invertebrate species, as identified by procedures established under 310 CMR 10.37.

The application is being sent to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

310 CMR 10.54: Bank

The bank at this location is not a naturally occurring bank, it is a stabilized slope consisting of large rip-rap stone. The bank is armored with large stones supporting the Pleasant Valley Roadway at the top of the slope. There is no impact to the bank with no permanent structures proposed. The aluminum gangway will span the bank with no negative impacts.

310 CMR 10.58 Riverfront Area

The Riverfront area at this location is mostly degraded consisting of pavement and rip-rap stones. There is a vegetated strip between these two areas which is mowed with a wire guardrail. There is a small 4'x4' platform at the top of the rip-rap bank and an elevated aluminum gangway over the rip-rap bank past the mean high-water line. This will have no negative impact on this degraded riverfront area.

310 CMR 10.57 Land Subject to Flooding

The only permanent structure is located above the FEMA flood elevation of 11.50 and as such will have no impact on any performance standards within the resource area. The gangway and float system are temporary and either elevated above the water or floating on top of the water with no negative impact to the performance Land Subject to Flooding performance standards.

310 CMR 10.58(4)(b) Protection of Rare Species.

The float system is within the mapped habitat area. It is our opinion that there is no negative impact with the proposed float system and a copy of the Notice of Intent submission has been sent to NHESP for review and confirmation of no impacts.