

Representing the Towns of Scituate, Marshfield, Norwell, Pembroke, Hanover and Hanson
A Division of The Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation

North River Commission,
24 West Street, PO Box 612
Norwell, MA 02061
781-659-7411
www.nsrwa.org/nrc

December 19, 2006

SITEC Environmental
769 Plain Street
Marshfield, MA 02050

Dear Sir,

The North River Commission has viewed the proposed plans for Herring Brook Meadow in Scituate.

First, we recognize that the proposed structures will not be physically located within the North River Corridor. They will, however, be significant, imposing and prominent structures as viewed from the North River Corridor.

The North River is the Commonwealth's only "scenic and recreational river." Its viewshed is afforded protective status under the Scenic and Recreational River Protective Order for the North River, as set forth in M.G.L. Chapter 21 Section 17B, and Chapter 367 Section 62 of the Acts of 1978. The purpose of the North River Commission is to administer this Protective Order so as to maintain the scenic and aesthetic character of the North River Corridor as it existed when the Order was passed in 1978.

As was the case 1978, today there is not a single four-story structure visible within the North River Viewshed. Herring Brook Meadow would change the entire character of the viewshed from the mouth of the North River to Route 3A.

Simply put, construction of a project of such size and mass of the proposed Herring Brook Meadow just outside the boundary of the North River Corridor is wholly inconsistent with the overall goals and purpose of the North River Management Plan that the North River Commission is dutybound to administer.

Specifically, the North River Management Plan provides in pertinent part as follows:

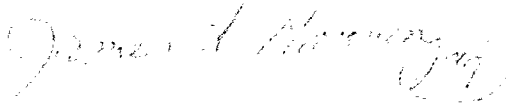
In addition to these restrictions which will protect the river corridor, the North Rivers Advisory Committee has developed some recommendations for the land outside the corridor, but still within the viewshed. The North River Commission will work with the appropriate town officials on a continuing basis to ensure that the development or uses within the viewshed but outside the boundary of the land subject to the protective order, does not destroy the character of the North River.

see North River Management Plan, Massachusetts DEM Scenic Rivers Program, July 1980, Chapter 2, page 37.

We respectfully urge you to reconsider the size, scope, and impact of this project on the North River Corridor.

If you have any further questions please contact the North River Commission at 781-659-7411.

Sincerely



James A. Hannon, Chairman
North River Commission
JAH/jag

cc: Scituate Selectmen, ZBA, Conservation, NSRWA