# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

US Army Corps of Engineers ® New England District 696 Virginia Road Concord, MA 01742-2751 Comment Period Begins: July 5, 2016 Comment Period Ends: August 5, 2016 File Number: NAE-2015-00242 In Reply Refer To: Lindsay Flieger Phone: (978) 318-8656 E-mail: Lindsay.Flieger@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application from the applicant below to conduct work in waters of the United States as described below.

APPLICANT: Thayer Marine, Inc.

**ACTIVITY:** Construct a large floating dock system and a new sheet-pile bulkhead that will restore shoreline stability at a commercial and recreational boating facility. A detailed description and plans of the activity are attached.

## WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK

This work is proposed in the Yantic River at 14 Falls Avenue in Norwich, Connecticut. The proposed location on the USGS Norwich quadrangle sheet is at Lat/Long 41.52437°N and -72.08195°W.

#### AUTHORITY

Permits are required pursuant to:

- X Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
- $\underline{X}$  Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
- \_\_\_\_\_Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act).

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are



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also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

#### ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

This project will impact acres of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for alewife, blueback herring, striped bass and shad. However, the District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that the site-specific adverse effect will not be substantial. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that little likelihood exists for the proposed work to impinge upon properties with cultural or Native American significance, or listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, no further consideration of the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, is necessary. This determination is based upon one or more of the following:

- a. The permit area has been extensively modified by previous work.
- b. The permit area has been recently created.
- c. The proposed activity is of limited nature and scope.
- d. Review of the latest published version of the National Register shows that no presence of registered properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are in the permit area or general vicinity.
- e. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s)

#### **ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION**

The New England District, Army Corps of Engineers has reviewed the list of species protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, which might occur at the project site. It is our preliminary determination that the proposed activity for which authorization is being sought is designed, situated or will be operated/used in such a manner that will have no effect to any Federally listed endangered or threatened species or their designated critical habitat.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved **Coastal Zone Management Programs**. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management

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Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- () Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. **Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date.** If you have any questions, please contact Lindsay Flieger at (978) 318-8656, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

### THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.

Robert J. DeSista

Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch Regulatory Division

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at <u>bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil</u>. You may also check here ( ) and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME: ADDRESS:

#### **PROPOSED WORK AND PURPOSE**

The work includes the discharge of fill material for a new 816 linear foot pile-supported steel sheet-pile bulkhead with associated support piles, tie-back anchor system, wales, ladders and cap. The bulkhead is needed to restore shoreline stability to support a pre-1968 building at a commercial, recreational boating facility. The proposed work includes the placement of approximately 3,000 cubic yards of backfill over 7,500 square feet of area landward of the new sheet-pile bulkhead. The existing timber bulkhead and shoreline are eroding and the fill area is needed to facilitate construction of the new bulkhead from land without demolishing the existing buildings. This work cannot be accomplished from the river because barge mounted equipment cannot access the site from the river due to the vessel height restrictions created by the Route 82 Bridge. Work also includes the installation of an approximately 6' wide x 795' long main float with twenty-six (26) 4' wide x 16' long finger floats, a 55 square foot ramp landing that leads to a 3.5' wide x 34' long ramp which leads to the main float; a 75 square foot ramp which also leads to the main float, restraint piles, and water/electric utilities. The structures will extend approximately 25' beyond the new bulkhead.

The work is described on the enclosed plans entitled "Bulkhead Restoration and New Docks, City of Norwich, New London County, Connecticut, Yantic River," on six sheets. And dated "October 16, 2014."



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