



December 1, 2025

Town of Hingham Conservation Commission
210 Central Street
Hingham, Massachusetts 02043-2759

ATTN: Ms. Shannon Palmer, Conservation Officer

RE: DEP File No. 034-1329 – Salt Marsh Monitoring Report
5 Bare Cove Lane, Hingham, Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Palmer:

SITEC Engineering & Environmental Consultants, Inc. (SITEC) conducted a site review of the salt marsh restoration area located at 5 Bare Cove Road in Hingham, MA earlier today, December 1, 2025. The restoration work was completed in response to an Enforcement Order issued by the Hingham Conservation Commission on January 31, 2024 addressing damage caused to the salt marsh during prior dock construction work by the previous property owner. The current review fulfills the requirements of Condition 3 of the Enforcement Order and documents the health and progress of the restoration since its completion in June 2024. This is the third monitoring report and reflects conditions following the second growing season.

The following observations were made as a result of SITEC's site review:

- Overall Stability: The salt marsh restoration area appears stable, with no evidence of erosion or sloughing. Its visual and vegetative condition is consistent with adjacent undisturbed salt marshes.
- Coir Matting: The unsecured coir matting referenced in the previous report was removed from the salt marsh vegetation. The coir matting damaged a 10'x3' area on the northerly side of the dock. SITEC recommends that replacement *Spartina alterniflora* plantings be planted in this location in the spring of 2026 (see photos).
- Float-Damaged Area: The previously restored float-damaged area has experienced settlement and washout. The installed rock sill remains intact and stable. SITEC recommends that the filter fabric and grade stakes be removed from the area.
- *Spartina alterniflora* – North Side of Dock: Some of the *Spartina alterniflora* plantings on the north side of the dock are in good condition and have shown

769 Plain Street, Unit A • Marshfield, MA 02050 • Tel: 781-319-0100

www.sitecenv.com

significant new growth. Most of the plantings, however, have not thrived due to the locations being too low in elevation.

- *Spartina alterniflora* – South Side of Dock: The majority of plantings on the south side of the dock are in good condition with observed new growth, with the exception of the plantings that were clearly planted too low in the intertidal zone.
- Seaward Plantings: Many plantings along the seaward edge of the restoration area on the north and south sides of the dock were installed too low in elevation to survive the tidal cycle. These areas experience prolonged inundation, resulting in plant die-off. The current seaward limit of healthy vegetation appears consistent with that of adjacent undisturbed areas. SITEC estimates the die-off affects less than 25% of the total restoration area.
- Landward Dock Plantings: Plantings beneath the landward end of the dock are not thriving, with little to no new growth observed. Also, there were leaves covering the substrate. SITEC recommends that this area be raked out by hand. Additionally, it is recommended that a mix of replacement *Distichlis spicata* and *Spartina patens* (or similar) plantings be planted in this location in the spring of 2026. These plantings will be more tolerant of the high marsh (drier condition) location.

In summary, the main portion of the restoration area continues to perform well following the second growing season. The observed die-off along the seaward edge is consistent with expectations, given the variability in tidal exposure. With the exception of the plantings located too low within the intertidal zone, it is estimated that the success rate of the remainder of the plantings is significantly higher than 75%.

The owner intends to plant the recommended replacement plantings in the spring of 2026. These areas are presented in the enclosed photographs.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

For SITEC Engineering & Environmental Consultants, Inc.



Jeffrey A. Couture
Project Manager

With Enclosure

C-1



Main area of salt marsh restoration area on south side of dock. Plantings are thriving.

C-2



Main area of salt marsh restoration area on south side of dock. Plantings are thriving.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC
DOCUMENTATION**
Salt Marsh Restoration
5 Bare Cove Lane
Hingham, Massachusetts

SITEC PROJ. NO.
SE18-1374

December 1, 2025



769 Plain Street, Unit C
Marshfield, MA 02050
Tel. (781) 319-0100 Fax (781) 834-4783

C-3



Thriving salt marsh vegetation beneath dock.

C-4



Float damaged area has washed out. Filter fabric and stakes should be removed.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC
DOCUMENTATION**
Salt Marsh Restoration
5 Bare Cove Lane
Hingham, Massachusetts

SITEC PROJ. NO.
SE18-1374

December 1, 2025



769 Plain Street, Unit C
Marshfield, MA 02050
Tel. (781) 319-0100 Fax (781) 834-4783



Northerly side of dock. 10'x3' area with no vegetation due to coir matting damage (requires replacement planting)

**PHOTOGRAPHIC
DOCUMENTATION**
Salt Marsh Restoration
5 Bare Cove Lane
Hingham, Massachusetts

SITEC PROJ. NO.
SE18-1374

December 1, 2025



769 Plain Street, Unit C
Marshfield, MA 02050
Tel. (781) 319-0100 Fax (781) 834-4783