

Town of Ayer

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Monthly Report of the Conservation Commission, January 2017:

Beyond the work carried out to prepare for, and implement the decisions of the month's public meetings, this office has been busy with many other topics. Currently, two projects take up the majority of the time not dedicated to past or upcoming public meetings. These are the continued development of a geospatially based database of all Commission paperwork, and outreach relating to the Commission's efforts to have a wetlands bylaw passed at the upcoming Town Meeting.

Many of the questions raised in researching the history of the Commission last month were resolved over the course of the month. Mentioned projects were unearthed, mentioned lands were accounted for, and the disparate accounts of Ayer's lands and waters were consolidated. A handful of minor questions remain, and are expected to be answered shortly.

The database development project already began to show its value in January. Missing certificates of compliance have been found, and notices to landowners missing these documents began to be mailed out. As of this writing, barring any unforeseen circumstances, I expect completion of the database to take place sometime in April.

The Commission completed its review of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions model bylaw, and decided upon a handful of changes that the Commission felt would make the model specific to the needs of Ayer. The proposed bylaw was made public, and the Commission has three opportunities for the public to comment in February and March. These dates were mailed out with the census as an insert in December.

I look forward to continuing these projects, while ensuring that the Commission is as informed as possible for upcoming public meetings.

Brian Colleran, Conservation Administrator