

Town of Ayer

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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April 20, 2017

Monthly Report of the Conservation Commission, March 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.

The database development project continues to show its value. Several older processes have been formally closed, and the burden of the process removed from any future land transactions or home sales. As of this writing, barring any unforeseen circumstances, I expect completion of the database to take place in late April. This will however only be limited to the tracking of Orders of Resource Area Delineation, and Orders of Conditions. Further time will be required to input all Determinations of Applicability and Enforcement information

Regarding the Commission's long effort to update the Wetlands Bylaw, it was decided that further study and input into the issue was required, and the Commission would not be presenting a new bylaw to the Spring Town Meeting, but would rather take more time to study the issue and present the new bylaw at the Fall Town Meeting. Specifically, the two issues that the Commission felt deserved a closer look were the issues relating to intermittent streams, and how to ensure homeowners clearly understand when a property management question must come before the Commission.

Additionally, the Commission began preparations for the upcoming ponds treatment work. This work was approved at Town meeting in the autumn of 2016, and several documents related to past work needed review. This review helped to clarify the responsibilities of both the Commission and the contractor, Solitude Lake Management, as this work goes forward.

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