

Conservation Administrator's Report

Jo-Anne Crystoff, Conservation Administrator

November 2017

The Conservation office remained busy in November. The Commissioners and the Conservation Administrator conducted two Saturday site walks to look at ongoing infrastructure construction on Pingry Hill and groundwater breakout at Pleasant Street Extension. The Conservation Administrator conducted site visits during the work week to insure erosion control systems are functioning and to help new and ongoing projects maintain the water quality standards of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Law.

Pond Weed Control: The Commission received the final report from Solitude on the summer week treatment for several of Ayer's ponds. The treatments were very successful and the Commission will be making plans for how to proceed in the summer ahead. The report will be available online and in the Conservation office soon.

Conservation Fund: The newly established and funded Conservation Fund will allow the town to purchase land for conservation and open space purposes. The Town Administrator has convened a Land Use Working Group to identify and prioritize parcels for possible purchase in the future. The Working Group is made up of the Town Administrator, the Town Planner, the Economic Development Director, the Conservation Administrator, members of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, and Master Plan Committee. The Working Group will meet monthly.

Land Use Team: The Land Use Team continues to meet weekly. Staff keeps current with each other's projects and offers insight, information, and advice.

The Conservation Commission is planning for next year's initiatives. Public meetings are in the planning stages for resource management plans for Ayer's Great Ponds and the issues of dock licenses.

Please contact the Conservation office with any questions or concerns. Thank you!