

## **Conservation Administrator's Report**

**Jo-Anne Crystoff, Conservation Administrator**

December 2017

The Conservation office remained busy in December keeping up with ongoing projects. The Commission received one Notice of Intent (NOI) and issued one Determination of Applicability (DOA) this month. The Commissioners and the Conservation Administrator conducted one Saturday site walk to look the completion of a residential construction project before issuing the Certificate of Compliance on the project. The arrival of winter weather has slowed the start of new construction projects, and the rounds of site visits by the Conservation Administrator are largely made to ensure that nothing has changed on a site.

**Pond Weed Control:** The Commission has drafted a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the 2018 round of ponds' weed control. The RFP will be issued in order to give weed controls companies a chance to provide the Commission with their plans and bids for weed control and maintenance of two of Ayer's ponds. The 2017 round of treatments was very successful, and the hope is for more of the same this coming summer.

**Conservation Fund:** The Commission will be starting to draft Policies and Procedures for the newly established and funded Conservation Fund. The Town Planner and the Conservation Administrator have applied for a grant with Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) which would provide a regional look at prioritizing conservation land for possible acquisition using the Conservation Fund. MRPC would create a series of maps and help the Town prioritize parcels for consideration.

**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. The DEP Circuit Rider, Judy Schmitz, will be attending the February 22, 2018 Conservation Commission Meeting with information about the dock license process for ponds in Ayer.

Please contact the Conservation office at 978-772-8249 with any questions or concerns. Thank you!