

# Conservation Administrator's Report

Jo-Anne Crystoff, Conservation Administrator

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The Conservation Office continues to be busy with applications, permits, inspections, and oversight.

**The Heating Oil Spill Cleanup and wetland replication** across the street from Page Hilltop School started last month. The wet weather and late season conditions have resulted in slow progress on the cleanup. The restoration and replication of wetland conditions has not yet begun. The Conservation Commission engaged the services of EcoTec, Inc. to assist in providing oversight for the project. The Conservation Agent has been onsite and in regular contact with the Licensed Site Professionals overseeing the cleanup of oil-impacted stream channels and wetlands. Ensuring the appropriate restoration of the wetlands has been a time-consuming and steady effort for the Conservation office.

**Infrastructure** work on Woodland Way in the Pingry Hill subdivision is behind schedule for completing stormwater structures and has turned their attention to housing site development because of the weather. The site as a whole had been reviewed with the Sedimentation Specialist on the project in order to create a winter stabilization plan. The plan has been implemented and work on the house lots can continue into the winter with little risk of sediment impacting wetland resource areas. Weekly site visits by the Conservation Agent continue to be important in maintaining the fragile stability of the development.

**Pond Weed Control:** The pond weed treatments for have concluded for the year. The Commission will be assessing the treatments at the end of the summer and making a decision about how to approach the pond treatments for next year.

**Conservation Fund:** The Commission has created a Policies and Procedures document for the Conservation Fund. The final Priority Preservation Areas map, created through a grant that the Town received from Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC), has been delivered and is available in the Conservation office.

**A Certificate of Compliance (COC)** is the document issued on behalf of the State by the Conservation Commission that clears the Order of Conditions (OOC) from a property's title. The Request for COC Form is received by the Conservation office and a site inspection is conducted to ensure that what was permitted by the OOC was built or that the OOC expired without the project being completed. Banks, other lenders, and title companies have been requesting COCs for old projects at an increased frequency.

**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. This meeting is an excellent way for the staff involved in land use issues in Ayer to connect with both large and small projects.

As a way to keep up with Commission projects, the Conservation Commission hears applications for permits on the first meeting of the month, and reserves the second monthly meeting for Commission business. There is, of course, some flexibility with this schedule.

Please contact the Conservation office at 978-772-8249, by email at [concom@ayer.ma.us](mailto:concom@ayer.ma.us), or drop by with any questions or concerns. Thank you!