

Conservation Administrator's Report

Jo-Anne Crystoff, Conservation Administrator and Agent

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Ayer's Local Wetlands Protection Bylaw successfully passed at Fall Town Meeting! Several residents spoke in its favor. The Commission's next steps will be to create performance standards and regulations to go along with the bylaw.

Bonnie Tillotson, long time Commission member, has resigned from the Commission. We will miss her wisdom and commitment. The open seat on the Commission has been posted and we have several candidates who have expressed interest.

A newly proposed construction project before the Conservation Commission is a Notice of Intent for repaving in the buffer zone to wetland resource areas.

A custom programmed data base for the Conservation Office is being designed and created through the efforts of the conservation administrator and Northport Software. This data base will allow the conservation office to more efficiently track projects.

The Pingry Hill subdivision requires continual monitoring for compliance with the Wetland Protection Act. With constant oversight, the site has responded well to implementing multiple small erosion control measures. Construction of the last stormwater structures is now complete. The Order of Conditions for the infrastructure has been extended for three years by the Commission.

Ponds' Weed Control: The first treatment was done earlier in the summer and the final treatment has been. The Commission is waiting for the contractor to forward their final report. We continue treatment in a maintenance mode to stay ahead of out-of-control invasive and nuisance plant growth.

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.

A Conservation Restriction (CR) on land at the end of Kohler Place needs one more round of review before being sent back to the State for final approval. New CRs will be created by the Littleton Road and Shaker Mill Pond subdivisions. Negotiations on how these CRs will be held and monitored are in process.

The Open Space Residential Development subdivision on Littleton Road has been issued an Order of Conditions (the permit for conducting work within 100' of a wetland resource area).

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