

Conservation Administrator's Report
Jo-Anne Crystoff, Conservation Administrator and Agent
November 2019

Ayer's Local Wetlands Protection Bylaw has been sent to the Attorney General for approval. The Commission's next steps will be to create performance standards and regulations to go with the new bylaw.

The open seat on the Commission has been posted and we have three candidates who have expressed interest. We will be setting up interviews at a December Commission meeting and hope to have a full compliment of five Commissioners by January.

A custom programmed data base for the Conservation Office is close to being operational. Kim Martin, the programmer from Northport Software, and the conservation administrator are working through the process. This data base will allow the conservation office to more efficiently track projects.

The Pingry Hill subdivision continues to be inspected weekly by environmental monitor Dr. Desheng Wang, P.E.

The Conservation Administrator attended the Association of Massachusetts Wetland Scientists annual meeting at Tower Hill and the Metro-West Conservation Alliance fall meeting in Littleton. She also continued her field training with the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative in assessing stream crossings.

Ponds' Weed Control: The first treatment was done earlier in the summer and the final treatment has been completed. 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.

A Conservation Restriction (CR) on land at the end of Kohler Place has awaiting the final round of review from the State Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and will be ready for local signatures soon.

The Page Hilltop School Broadcast Club interviewed the conservation administrator and the director of parks at Pirone Park on a beautiful fall afternoon. It was a delight to work with the talented kids, club leader Kristin Mayo, and Scott Kurland from APAC.

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.

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!