

## **Conservation Administrator's Report**

**Jo-Anne Crystoff, Conservation Administrator and Agent**

**June 2020**

**The state of emergency** instituted with the arrival of Covid-19 has brought with it a new set of operating procedures to the Conservation Commission. The Commission continues to keep to our regular meeting schedule using Zoom with public participation possible. The Commission has discretion regarding opening public hearings during the state of emergency.

**Commission meetings are** being held via the Zoom software platform. Meetings are limited to 90 minutes and are open to public participation. We are finding it challenging to get through our agendas in the allotted time and looking at engineering plans is very difficult.

**Ayer's local wetland protection bylaw** was approved by the Attorney General's office. We have begun drafting regulations for our bylaw.

**Violation notice, in the form of tickets,** are being issued to **John Hillier** daily beginning June 16<sup>th</sup>. The fine is \$300 per day, with each day being a new offence. The Enforcement Order for unpermitted work at 0 Central Avenue continues to be unresolved.

**A peer review contractor** was chosen for the Ayer Solar IIB Notice of Intent. EcoTec, an environmental consulting practice in Worcester, was chosen jointly by the Commission and the applicant's representative. The review has begun.

**A ponds' weed treatment contractor** was chosen for this season's ponds' treatments. Solitude Lake Management will again provide this service for Ayer's ponds. The first treatment is scheduled to take place in early July.

The Commission will keep up with its twice monthly meetings providing public participation through the Zoom platform. During the state of emergency, the Commission has sole discretion to open public hearings. Please contact the Conservation Office with any questions or concerns at 978-772-8249 or at [concom@ayer.ma.us](mailto:concom@ayer.ma.us).