

## **Conservation Administrator's Report**

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

**September 2020**

**The State of Emergency** instituted by the arrival of Covid-19 continues to effect work in the conservation office. The Commission in meeting remotely. Town Hall is closed to the public. The Commission has discretion regarding opening public hearings during the State of Emergency.

**Enforcement Orders against John Hillier** and a Notice of Intent that he filed will be discussed during an October Commission meeting. The Commission is working toward resolution of these issues with Mr. Hillier.

**The Ayer Solar II B** peer review process continues. A Professional Wetland Scientist, a Professional Engineer, and a solar energy engineer are reviewing plans and documents that have been submitted to the Commission as a Notice of Intent for this project. The Commission continues to review comments from all professionals involved in this process.

**The Stratton Hill subdivision**, off Wright Road, has submitted an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) to the Commission for the wetland resource area boundaries. Because of the scope of this application, the Commission will be peer reviewing the wetland line.

**Summer pond weed treatments** have been completed for this summer. The above average heat and below average rain fall together have resulted in excellent growing conditions for nuisance aquatic vegetation. An end-of-season survey will be conducted by the weed treatment contractor to help the Commission assess the effectiveness of the project.

**Violation and enforcement** work on the part of the Commission has increased. The Commission has responded to multiple resident reports of Wetland Protection Act violations this summer. In most cases, issuing a violation letter and making an educational site visit is sufficient to bring compliance.

**Applications for wetland permits** continue to be received by the Commission despite the changes brought by Covid-19 to Ayer. The Commission's agendas are full with public hearings, public meetings, discussions, and enforcement matters. Working using the Zoom platform is challenging but does seem to bring a higher level of public participation to the meetings.

**Scout projects** are a continuing source of delight inspiration for the agent! I'm currently working with a Silver Award project and will be working with a Gold Award project.

Please contact the Commission office with any questions at 978-772-8249 or [concom@ayer.ma.us](mailto:concom@ayer.ma.us)