

## **Conservation Administrator's Report**

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

**October 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 currently has discretion regarding opening public hearings during the State of Emergency.

**Enforcement Orders against John Hillier** and a Notice of Intent that he filed were discussed at Public Hearings. Mr. Hillier's attorney, David McCay, was present for the hearings. The Commission is challenged in 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. The peer review of the submitted wetland line is underway.

**Weed treatments** for Ayer's ponds have been completed for this year. The Commission is awaiting receipt of the end-of-season survey from the contractor. This survey will help the Commission assess the effectiveness of the project and make plans for the upcoming year.

**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 fall. 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.

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