

Conservation Administrator's Report

Jo-Anne Crystoff, Conservation Administrator and Agent

March 2021

John Hillier has file a law suit against the Conservation Commission, in addition to appealing to DEP the Order of Conditions issued by the Conservation Commission. Mr. Hillier has work done in a Resource Area and the buffer zone without a permit on Central Avenue. DEP is reviewing his appeal and will contact the Commission to arrange a site visit during which both parties will present their arguments.

The contract for treatments for Ayer's ponds has been awarded for summer 2021 to Water and Wetland LLC. The Commission will continue treating weeds with a maintenance-level program pending approval of the warrant article at Town Meeting for funding this work.

A volunteer grant writer is working with the Commission on a grant for waterways signs to be submitted to the Wild and Scenic Nashua River Stewardship Council.

A Poetry Path in Pine Meadow Conservation Area is being planned by the Commission and the Library. Look for this six-week exhibit to begin in mid-April (it is available now).

Applications for projects continue to flood into the Commission office. A time control plan for packed agendas helps to keep the Commission on track for meetings with limited time due to Zoom and staff constraints. As spring approaches and an even busier agenda is anticipated, the Commission will assess how best to accommodate the demand. The amount of new development coming to Ayer that requires Conservation Commission permits is straining our capacity to manage a large number of permit applications and oversight.

Please contact the Commission office with any questions at 978-772-8220 x 143 or concom@ayer.ma