

Conservation Commission Monthly Report

Jess Gugino, Interim Conservation Office Administrator

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Projects the Commission has reviewed and permitted, or is in the process of permitting, have included New England Power Company transmission line improvements, and resident projects from hazardous tree removal to stair replacements on the bank of Sandy Pond.

Annual Pond Invasive Weed Management. The Commission reviewed two proposals received for performing this necessary annual maintenance on Sandy, Flannagan, and Pine Meadow ponds. For the second year in a row, the Commission selected Water & Wetlands to perform the 2022 treatments.

Grove Pond invasive water chestnuts patch. The Commission provided a strong letter of support to Laurie Nehring, of PACE (People of Ayer Concerned About the Environment), for a community grant application to the Nashua River Stewardship Council. Ms. Nehring is spearheading an effort to determine the safety of having volunteers handpull a patch of water chestnuts on this pond. She was successful in being awarded the grant, and it will be used to test the sediment, water, and plants in the patch area to determine levels of toxicity. If levels are safe enough, the handpull will need to be permitted through the Commission, and would take place later in the summer. Grove Pond has a history of toxic recordings in its sediment and plants, which makes safety such an issue.

The Waterways signs project continues to be a work in progress. Commissioners reviewed and updated sign locations in February, and hope to have this project completed by the Nashua River Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council's deadline this summer.

Please contact the Conservation office with any questions at concom@ayer.ma.us or 978-772-8220 x143