

**Conservation Commission
Monthly Report
March 2023**

The Commission continues its work enforcing the Wetlands Protection Act and local Bylaws and Regulation through site inspections on new and continuing projects. The Commission held two meetings in March.

At the Commission's March 9th meeting they had three applications before them. First a Request for Determination for a shed located on Woodland Way. Second the Commission met with Tighe and Bond and the DPW to review an after the fact Notice of Intent for an Emergency culvert repair at Spectacle Pond Water Treatment Plant. Lastly the Commission reviewed the Notice of Intent from Boston Gas Company for a gas main replacement along the right of way on Littleton Road. The gas main will go under Bennett's Brook using directional drilling. All three permits were continued to the next meeting on March 23rd and site visits were scheduled for Woodland Way and Littleton Road. The Commission awarded the contract for weed treatment for the ponds to Water and Wetlands. Lastly the Commission voted to approve the creation of the Friends of Pine Meadow Land Stewardship program and will start actively seeking volunteers.

At the Commission's meeting on March 23rd the Commission issued the Determination of Applicability for Woodland Way and closed and issued Orders of Conditions for both Spectacle Pond and Littleton Road. The Commission also heard a Request for Determination from Town Engineer, Matt Hernon, for drainage improvements along Pleasant Street. The Commission issued a Determination of Applicability for Pleasant Street at the meeting.

The Conservation Agent continues to go out and inspect ongoing projects including weekly visits to Ayer Solar II and meet with residents to discuss concerns on their property. The Agent has completed the revisions of the Wetland Regulations and a hearing will be held next month. The Agent also issued 3 Emergency Certificates to the DPW for Beaver dam removal due to a lot of beaver activity throughout the Town. Lastly the Agent attended Forging Day for the Pocket Forest MVP Grant Program on March 25th. There were many volunteers present and many leaves, sticks, mushrooms and other microbes were collected to be used on the East Main Street pocket Forest site.

Submitted by Heather Hampson, Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission