

Conservation Commission
Monthly Report
April 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 April.

At the Commission's April 13th meeting the Commission issued two Certificates of Compliance to close out the last of the Orders of Condition for Pingry Hill. The Commission also received the annual inspection report for the Conservation Restriction at Autumn Ridge. Each year a group of residents at the 55 and over development inspect the Conservation Restriction boundaries and give their annual report to the Commission which includes any violations and a list of animals that have been found in the area.

At the Commission's meeting on April 27th the Commission issued an extension for the Order of Conditions for Ice House partners which operate a hydro-electric power facility on West Main Street. The Commission also held a public hearing for revisions to their existing Wetland Regulations which added some clarification for site conditions as well as requirements for submitted plans. Conservation Agent, Heather Hampson informed the Commission that the office received the amended Notice of Intent for Ayer Solar IIb and will open the hearing at their next meeting. Also, at the next meeting the Department of Public Works will be coming to the Commission for 2 projects in town.

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 attended a vernal pool certification training day that was sponsored by the Massachusetts Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals in Stowe. The Pocket Forest project had its planting day on Saturday, April 29th with nearly 100 volunteers present and many representatives from other communities there to learn about the project to bring to their own towns.

Submitted by Heather Hampson, Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission