

**Conservation Commission
Monthly Report
May 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 May 11th meeting the Commission had three applications to review. The first was a Request for Determination of Applicability for a bio-retention area and minor trail work along Marshall Street/Third Street requested by the Department of Public works. There was another application from the DPW, a public hearing for a Notice of Intent for a pump station replacement along an easement at 2 Wright Road. The Commission will hold a site visit for the two projects on May 13th. The last item on the agenda was a public hearing for the Amended Order of Conditions for Ayer Solar IIb. The hearing was continued till the June 6th meeting with a site visit scheduled for June 3rd. The project is also before the Planning Board for an amended Site Plan.

At the Commission's meeting on May 25th the Commission issued the Determination of Applicability for the DPW project on Marshall Street/Third Street with a condition to try and save any trees from removal. The Commission then issued the Order of Conditions for the pump station replacement within the easement on Wright Road with no special conditions and closed the hearing. Lastly the Commission issued a Partial Certificate of Compliance for 7 Hemlock Drive, which is part of DEP File #100-0341 for Pingry Hill, which will be requested to close the entire Order later.

The Commission did attend the site visits for the two DPW projects on May 13th. While reviewing the site for the bio-retention area and trail improvements the Commission requested to take all measures possible to save any tree from being removed as well as look at any possible tree limb that could be hazardous to any trail walkers. The site visit for 2 Wright Road included several area residents along with the Town Engineer and engineers from BSC group who designed the project. The Commission reviewed the plans and the proposed work for the area and listened to and tried to address all the residents' concerns with the project.

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 also attended several meetings on potential projects, update to the pocket forest on East Main Street and a meeting to discuss an update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Submitted by Heather Hampson, Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission