

**Conservation Commission
Monthly Report
July 2023**

The Commission continues its work enforcing the Wetlands Protection Act and local Bylaws and Regulation through site inspections on new and continuing projects, as well as community outreach. The Commission held two meetings in July.

At the Commission's July 13th meeting the Commission had three applications to review. The Commission opened the public hearing for 201-205 West Main Street for a mixed-use development. The project is currently also before the Planning Board. The Commission scheduled a site visit for the property for Saturday July 22nd and continued the hearing to the August 10th meeting. The Commission also received an update on Ayer Solar IIb and will submit the draft Order of Conditions to the applicant and their representatives for review prior to closing the hearing. Lastly the Commission issued a Certificate of Compliance for DEP File number 100-0478 for New England Power Company for soil borings within the Right-of-Way.

At the Commission's meeting on July 27th the Commission received an update from North County Land Trust on the Conservation Restriction work they were contracted to do for the Commission for the FY23 year. The Commission heard and issued with conditions a Determination of Applicability for 72 Nashua Street for a small retaining wall project within an existing drainage basin. The Commission heard and issued with conditions a Determination of Applicability for Nasoya Foods LLC for some minor site and stormwater improvements. Lastly the Commission voted to issue an Amended Order of Conditions for DEP File number 100-0444 for Ayer Solar IIb with one additional condition.

The Commission held a kickoff meeting at Pine Meadow for the newly formed Pine Meadow Land Stewards on July 15th. The group met for only about 2 hours due to heat and mosquitos but walked a few trails and noted some easy projects to start on this year, including re-blazing trails and new signage.

The Conservation Agent attended a two-day Municipal Stormwater Inspector Training on July 13th and 14th and received her Certificate of completion. The Agent also investigated several calls of possible wetland violations as well as met with residents to discuss projects on their properties.

Submitted by Heather Hampson, Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission