

Conservation Commission
Monthly Report
September 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 September.

At the Commission's September 14th meeting the Commission had one Request for Determination for three test wells off Nemco Way for a possible new well location for the Department of Public Works. The Commission issued a Negative Determination for the work installing and running the test wells. The public hearing for 201-205 West Main Street was continued without discussion as requested by the applicant. Finally, the Commission continued their discussion on any possible changes to the Wetlands Bylaw. Given the short amount of time till the Fall Town Meeting the discussion was made to hold off on any additions or changes to the local Bylaw.

At the Commission second meeting on September 28th the Commission also voted to issue an Order of Conditions for the mixed-use development proposed at 201-205 West Main Street. The Commission postponed the signing of the Order of Conditions to the next meeting giving the Agent time to draft the special conditions. The second item on the agenda was an Enforcement Order that has been issued for Ayer Solar II, LLC. The Commission voted to ratify the issuance of the Enforcement Order and reviewed the restoration plan that was submitted for the site. Property owner, Rohit Garg and Engineer Nick Pauling from GPR, Inc were present at the meeting to discuss the restoration of the failed stream crossing and schedule of work to be completed. The Commission also reviewed a minor change to the approved plans for Ayer Solar II which included a larger rock to be placed into the stream crossing to prevent washout from occurring again on site. The Commission agreed that the change was minor and did not need to be submitted as a revised plan.

The Conservation Agent continues to meet with residents to discuss projects on their property and the removal of any vegetation. The Agent will be attending the Newton Street Festival on behalf of the Commission and will have a table with invasive and native plants on display for residents to learn about along with tree and shrub identification books.

Submitted by Heather Hampson, Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission