

**Conservation Commission
Monthly Report
January 2024**

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 Conservation Commission held two meetings in January.

At the Commission's January 11th meeting the Commission reviewed two Requests for Determination of Applicability. The first was for the Department of Public Works for a stormwater outfall drainage improvement on Snake Hill Road at the Pierce Street intersection. Town Engineer, Matt Heron made the presentation to the Commission. The Commission approved the project with a Negative Determination citing the project is exempt as a maintenance project with the condition to inspect the drainage pipe prior to the installation of riprap to ensure the pipe is in good condition. The Commission also reviewed Request submitted by McCarthy Engineering for Ali Goldinak for the redevelopment of 42 Park Street. The Commission scheduled a site walk for the project to review the site and continued the item to the next meeting on January 25th. Lastly the Commission reviewed the 2023 Ponds report to ensure the Requests for Quotes for pond treatments for 2024 include all the suggestions listed for each pond.

At the Commission's second meeting on January 25th the Commission reviewed three Requests for Determination of Applicability. The Commission met again on the Request for 42 Park Street. The Commission voted to issue a Positive Determination for the proposed project under the Commission's Wetlands Bylaw and Regulations. A Notice of Intent will be filed at a later date for the project strictly under the Ayer's Bylaw and Regulations. The Commission also reviewed a Request for 2 Shelly Lane for a proposed sunroom and deck within the 100-foot buffer of Grove Pond. The project according to GIS is 107 feet from Grove Pond, the owner filed the Request on record with the Commission as a precaution. The Commission approved the project with a Negative Determination. Lastly the Commission reviewed the Request from the Cannongate Condo Association for the cleanup of an old stormwater detention basin that is listed as a wetland. The Commission issued a Negative Determination for the clean up of the detention pond as it will improve the overall health water quality with the condition that the Commission be notified of the contractor to conduct the cleanup.

As the weather gets colder and the Commission typically sees a slowdown in permitting requests which gives them more time to focus on possible grant opportunities and projects for the spring. The Conservation Agent as been working with the DPW and Town Planner on reviewing Stormwater Regulations. The Agent also sits on the Stormwater Utility Fund Working Group meeting monthly to review and construct a model for a possible Stormwater Utility Fund to go to Fall 2024 Town Meeting.

Submitted by Heather Hampson, Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission