

**Conservation Commission
Monthly Report
February 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 February.

At the Commission's February 8th meeting the Commission the Commission the Commission had two presentations. The first was from the Stormwater Utility Fund Working Group. This group which is made up of a mix of town employees and members of the public is working to create a Stormwater Enterprise Fund to create a funding source for all stormwater infrastructure throughout the town, as well as implementing the town's federal MS4 permit. The other presentation was from the Affordable Housing Committee on a few Zoning Bylaw changes that will be going to the Planning Board for a public hearing and eventually to Spring Town Meeting. The presentation was on adding more density to the current zoning allowing for more two-family units and multi-family units for more affordable options for people in town.

At the Commission's second meeting on February 22nd the Commission had two public hearings. The first hearing was for a Notice of Intent filed for the construction of a new single-family house along Third Street which will include filling and grading within the flood plain. The Commission scheduled a site visit for this project on Saturday February 24th and continued the hearing to the March 14th meeting. The second hearing was for the Notice of Intent filing for 42 Park Street, which the Commission issued a Positive Determination of Applicability for back in January due to a work within the buffer of a stream that becomes jurisdictional under the Commission's Wetlands Bylaw. The Commission closed the hearing and issued an Order of Conditions for the project with a condition to have "no dumping, no disturbance" signs installed along the buffer zone.

The Commission office continues to be slow as typical in the winter months but has seen an uptick in calls and inquires on upcoming meeting deadlines. The Conservation Agent went to the Parks Commission for approval for a planting project that the Nashua River Watershed Association will be doing along Grove Pond. The project will be coming before the Commission in March for approval and the Parks Commission granted the NRWA approval for the work at the Pirone Park. The project is projected to start in mid-April and will restore the natural buffer between the pond and the shore line.

Submitted by Heather Hampson, Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission