

**Conservation Commission
Monthly Report
March 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 March.

At the Commission's March 14th meeting the Commission had a continued public hearing for a Notice of Intent (NOI) for a single-family dwelling to be located on Third Street, and two Request for Determinations. Due to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) not issuing a permit number or comments for the project on Third Street by the time of the hearing the Commission continued the hearing to the next meeting on the 28th. The first Request for Determination was submitted by the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) for an invasive plant removal and native planting project along Grove Pond at Pirone Park. The project has been approved by the Parks Commission with the condition to not interfere with any park activities. The planting project is part of a grant the NRWA received that will fund several projects along the Nashua River watershed area. The project will be completed mostly with volunteers and will help restore the bank along Grove Pond and help with water quality. Ms. Heather Hampson, Conservation Agent, informed the Commission that the project is exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act. The Commission voted to approve the project with a Negative Determination. The last item on the agenda was a Request for Determination from Boston Gas Company for a replacement regulator gas station and associated gas lines long the right-of-way of West Main Street. The Commission issued a Negative Determination for the project as it is also an exempt project under the Act but requested that the gas line work not interfere with the West Main Street bridge replacement.

At the Commission's second meeting on March 28th the Commission had one public hearing. The public hearing was for the project located on Third Street. The Commission had finally received a permit number from the DEP and there were no comments. The Commission voted to approve the project with the conditions to have "no disturb, no dumping" signs installed along the 50 feet buffer zone. The project still needs to go before the Planning Board for a stormwater permit. Ms. Hampson will attend the Planning Board meetings for the Commission. Also on the Agenda was a discussion on the Land Stewards for Pine Meadow Conservation Area. No volunteers were able to attend, but Ms. Hampson informed the Commission that new trail blazes will be ordered so the trails can be remarked later this spring. The Conservation Restriction for Shaker Mill Pond has been reviewed by the State and Town Council. The Commission reviewed the document and provided additional comments for the owner.

Submitted by Heather Hampson, Conservation Agent for the Conservation Commission