

Report of the Conservation Commission

2012

The Commission continued to administer the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, issuing 11 Orders of Conditions and 9 Determinations of Applicability. Regular public meetings and numerous site inspections were held during the year. Many sites were reviewed for building permit application sign-offs by the Conservation Commission Agent. Among the major projects monitored in 2012 were the Crosswinds subdivision site work off of Plain St. and Station St., the Maple Ave Landfill Closure, and many Town paving filings. The Commission also informally resolved several other minor violations of the Wetland Protection Act. Certificates of Compliance were issued for xx completed projects. After a lengthy legal process a Magistrate issued an opinion allowing construction of the Govenors Landing subdivision. The Commission had denied the project in 2004 and the denial was upheld by the MA DEP.

A Stormwater Bylaw to be administered by the Commission was approved at the Annual Town meeting. Regulations are being prepared by the Stormwater Bylaw Committee and the Commission.

The Commission approved a Herbicide Use Policy and drafted a Forest Management Policy for town conservation land and other properties managed by the Land Stewardship Committee.

The Commission worked with the owner of the proposed JR Estates Open Space Subdivision and MA Division of Fish and Wildlife to draft a deed restriction to protect open space preserved by the subdivision.

The Commission provided several comment letters to the Planning Board regarding applications for Large Lot Subdivisions and other development proposals.

Significant time and effort was spent on resolving problems caused by the increasing beaver population in town. . Beaver problems at the Southboro Road bog were resolved by installation of culvert fencing and a second pond leveler. Beaver were trapped at Fowler Street.

The Commission provided considerable input to the redesigned town website.

Pratt Pond Ice Out:

2012- February 19, March 7

Pratt Pond Ice out defined as first day in spring when no ice is visible in the pond from a vantage point near the intersection of School Street and North Main Street. In 20`12 the pond was ice free on February 19. Ice reformed and melted several times after February 19 until a final melting occurred on March 7.

Respectfully Submitted,

Conservation Commission

Christine Scott, Chairperson

Mike Penko, Vice-Chairperson

Sandra Lajoie, Treasurer

Scott Heim, Member

Thomas Jango, Member

Alan Miano, Member

Marcella Stasa, Member

Denise Smith, Administrative Assistant

Matt Selby, Conservation Agent