

Report of the Conservation Commission

The Commission administered the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Town Wetland Protection Bylaw and the Town Stormwater Bylaw. Regular public meetings were generally conducted bi-weekly and numerous site inspections were held during the year. Many sites were reviewed and approved for building permit application sign-offs by the Conservation Commission Agent. The Intermunicipal Agreement with Northbridge to share the agent's position was renewed. The following major projects were reviewed and permitted: Fowler Street Bridge replacement, Solar Farm off Westboro Rd, Hartford Ave N water main replacement, Hopkinton Rd gas line, Hartford Ave S sewer line & pump station and culvert replacement off West River St. Projects under construction monitored by the Commission in 2018 included: the Crosswinds subdivision located between Plain and Station Streets, Rockwood Meadows over 55 development on East St, Town roadway re-paving work, the Hartford Ave N water main project, Hopkinton Rd gas line project, Upton Ridge over 55 development off Hartford Ave S, and the Hartford Ave S sewer line & pump station project. Several individual house lots were also reviewed and permitted. The Conservation Commission also informally resolved several other minor violations of the Wetland Protection Act. Major enforcement actions included violation at a commercial facility on Milford St, a West River St subdivision, William St, and a house lot on North St. Conservation Restrictions held by the Commission at Kenneth Village and Five Forks Farm (formerly known as Sweet William Farm) were monitored. Town meeting accepted 16.52 acres of open space protected as part of the Crosswinds Subdivision. The Commission agreed to hold a conservation restriction on the Blue Conservation Area owned by the Metacomet Land Trust on Crockett Rd.

The Commission signed a MOU with the Hopkinton Area Land Trust to maintain a parking area and trail at Rockwood Meadows. The trail provides access to the Peppercorn Hill Conservation Area from East St.

Sandy Lajoie was recognized for 35 years on the Upton Conservation Commission. Her knowledge and expertise are invaluable to the commission.

Applications/Requests received:

- Notice of Intent (NOI) = 15 (including 1 withdrawn & 4 amended)
- Requests for Determination (RDA) = 6
- Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) = 0
- Request for Certificate of Compliance (COC) = 12
- Order of Conditions (OOC) Extensions = 0

Decisions/Actions issued by the Commission:

- Order of Conditions (OOC) issued = 16 (no denials)
- Determinations = 6
- Order of Resource Area Delineation (ORAD) = 0
- Certificate of Compliance = 11 (including 2 partial)
- Order of Conditions Extension = 0

- Enforcement Orders = 0

Revolving Accounts	Start Balance 7/1/2017	Receipts	Expenditures	End Balance 6/30/18
Wetlands By-Law	\$ 5,473.00	\$10,428.00	\$ 4,489.00	\$11,412.00
Storm Water By-Law	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 1700.00
Community Garden	\$ 225.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 0	\$ 360.00
Land Stewardship	\$ 683.00	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 682.00

Other Accounts	Start Balance 7/1/2017	Revenue	Expenditures	End Balance 6/30/2018
Wetland Protection	\$ 6,042.00	\$ 9,408.00	\$ 9,790.00	\$ 5,660.00
Conservation Fund	\$ 7,048.00	\$ 5000.00	\$ 0	\$12,050.00

The Commission with the Board of Health administered town funds allocated for beaver control. Funds were expended to maintain existing pond levelers to regulate the water levels at several locations and to trap beavers at Southborough Road.

The Commission completed a plan for turtle habitat enhancement at Stefans Farm using fund set aside by MA NHESP for turtle conservation projects in Upton.

The Conservation finalized a land stewardship plan for town owned properties off North Street, including the Warren Brook Watershed, Howarth Glen, Whitney Conservation areas, and two other town owned parcels managed by the Commission through its Land Stewardship Committee.

The Commission has been monitoring Pratt Pond Ice-Out as an indicator of climate change since 2010. Pratt Pond Ice out is 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 2018, the pond was ice free on February 27, refroze and thawed several times, and was ice free for the season on March 26.

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
Mary Overholt, Associate member
Denise Smith, Administrative Assistant
David Pickart, Conservation Agent