

Present: Elliott presiding, Boeing, Dinsmore, Rand, Rice, Steeves  
Absent: Masterson

6/5/2018 - Minutes

1. Public Hearings, Public Meetings & Appointments

- A. 7:00 PM - Continuation Public Hearing Re: Notice Of Intent Filed By MA DCR Lakes And Pond Program To Control Nuisance And Non-Native Plant Growth Utilizing Treatment With USEPA/MA State Registered Aquatic Herbicides, Algaecides, And Other BMPs On The Nashua River (Pepperell Pond). Matt Salem, Permit Coordinator and GIS Specialist with SOLitude Lakes and Ponds, represented the applicant, the Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation. SOLitude was hired by MA DCR for this five-year project to address the 110+ acres of water chestnuts in Pepperell and Groton. All fees have been paid and Salem provided proof of mailing to the abutters. SOLitude was originally hired 10 years ago, using a mechanical harvester, to reduce the quantity of water chestnuts. The use of a mechanical harvester has challenges due to shallow water depths in many areas and access to a launch site. Could a harvester be used? Pepperell had only one site identified for offloading the plants previously but that site is no longer available due to the construction of a new housing development. Imazamox is being proposed, using a foliar application, along with a peroxide-based algaecide. Copper algaecides were prohibited by NHESP due to the presence of rare fresh water mussels downstream of the dam. This is an Ecological Restorations Limited Project. The project would protect and enhance aquatic habitat, water quality, and the recreational uses of the river. Various techniques were evaluated, including drawdown. Annual plant surveys will be conducted to evaluate the work being done. Similar plans are in use on the Sudbury River in Framingham and the Mystic River north of Boston. The products they use, including all algaecides, Clearcast, etc. are USEPA, MassDEP, and MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) registered. Treatment is expected to begin by early July. All applicators are licensed yearly with MDAR. All applicators will be licensed or in the direct company of a licensed applicator. The removal of the water chestnuts may increase the quantity of other submerged aquatic invasives but the most recent study of the invasives present indicates the submerged plants are already extensive. Evaluation of the water chestnut treatments will also include evaluation of the other submerged aquatic invasives. Any changes to approved permits will require the issuing authorities be contacted. Orange signs will be posted near access locations to keep boaters out of the water and prevent the herbicide from being washed off of the leaves during the treatment. Martha Morgan with the NRWA identified the areas on the maps where annual water chestnut hand pulls have taken place since 2005. Funding for the project has been provided as part of the DCR Partnership Matching Funds Program and funds provided by the hydro dam as part of a Settlement Agreement. On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all  
VOTED: to issue an Order of Conditions.

2. Review Of Draft Minutes

On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all  
VOTED: to accept the April 17, 2018 Minutes, as drafted.

3. For Signature: Schedule Of Bills Payable

On a motion from Elliott, seconded by Rand, all  
VOTED: to sign the Bills Payable from Gate City Fence for the fence repair/replacement on Nissitissit Meadows and the conservation land on Groton Street by the Covered Bridge and to sign the Bills Payable for the signs purchased from Newman Signs to alert horse riders to stay to the edge of the fields to protect soft fields and nesting birds.

4. Conservation Administrator's Report

- A. Conservation Commission Meeting Schedule For July Through December 2018  
Meeting dates for July through December 2018 are July 17, August 7 and 21, September 11 and 25,

October 9 and 23, November 13 and 27, December 4 and 18.

- B. Natural History Walk, Sunday, June 10, 2018, 10:00 AM - Keyes Farm Conservation Area (Meet At Parking Lot On Elm Street Near Intersection With Shirley Street)

The second natural history walk of the year, led by Pat Swain Rice, will take place on Sunday, June 10, 2018 at the Keyes Farm Conservation land on Elm and River Road.

- C. Extension Permit - 259-0764, Giuffre, 2 Brown Lane

An extension to the current Order of Conditions for the septic system replacement at 2 Brown Lane has been requested. On a motion by Elliott, seconded by Rand, all

VOTED: to extend the Order of Conditions for 2 Brown Lane by two years.

- D. Appeal Filed For Birch Drive Extension Roadway And Related Infrastructure - 259-0790

Neighbors for the Birch Drive Extension project appealed the Order of Conditions with MassDEP.

MassDEP, the applicant, and the Commission received copies of the Request for a Superseding Order.

In speaking with MA DEP's Wetland Division, they said they will be in contact with the Conservation Commission to arrange a site visit in the future.

5. Other Business

6. Matters That May Be Raised That The Chairman Didn't Reasonably Anticipate

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Terrasi