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TOWN OF AYER  
TOWN CLERK



## **Town of Ayer Conservation Commission**

Town Hall \* One Main Street \* Ayer, MA 01432 \* 978-772-8220, ext. 143  
Minutes for **12/14/2023**

Location: Ayer Town Hall, 1st Floor

Present: Jon Schmalenberger (Chair), Mark Phillips (Vice-Chair), George Bacon (Member), Jen Amaya (Member), Heather Hampson (Conservation Agent)

Absent: Jess Gugino (Member/Clerk)

APAC taped: YES

**All Public Hearings are opened under the Wetlands Protection Act (MCL Ch. 131, section 40)  
and under the Ayer Wetlands Bylaw (Article XXVI), unless otherwise noted**

### **7:00 PM – Open Meeting**

- **Confirmation of Agenda**
  - G. Bacon moved to confirm the agenda as posted; M. Phillips 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - G. Bacon moved to accept the minutes for 11/9/2023 as written; M. Phillips 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously.
- **Public Input**
  - None received.

### **RDA Sandy Pond Road Complete Streets Improvements**

- Matt Hernon - Town engineer
- MH went over the basics of the project noting limited excavation work
- JS - any work in private property
  - MH - some but very little
- JS - how much work is in the buffer
  - MH - street surveyed, small wetland area on Cannongate property, some work in the 50' buffer there. Approx 200' of sidewalk work in that area. Some surprise over the wetland delineation, as were other members
- JS called for questions:
  - MP - when will work commence -
    - MH bid over winter, start in spring
  - MP will road be widened
    - MH southern side by a foot, northern side not
    - MH lanes will be narrowed to more standard widths
  - MP - location of crosswalks? Parking?
    - MH relocated to intersection
    - MH Addition of parking as requested during public meeting, area of most excavation due to width of road
- MP follow-up - drainage allowed for parking area? Anywhere else?



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- MH - parking area will have drainage due to curbing, to infiltration structure. One other similar drain structure in front of #78 Sandy Pond, just to the west of the parking where there is a low point in the road. No curb proposed where water sheds.
- Motion to issue a negative determination: Motion GB, 2nd MP, vote: unanimous

### **NOI 71 Sandy Pond DEP 100-0486 Continued Public Hearing**

- Applicants not in attendance
- Orders have been drawn, HH detailed adjustments to standard OOC
  - Addition of 4 trees per lot
  - No dumping signs around perimeter
    - GB asks to detail interval and number
    - MP suggests 2 per unit, 4 per lot, 8 total
    - MP suggests edit to tree planting that they have to grow for 2 growing seasons replace if they do not
- Motion to approve and issues the OOC as edited: Motion GB 2nd MP Vote Unanimous
- Motion to close the public hearing NOI DEP file no: Motion GB 2nd MP Vote Unanimous

### **Review: Draft Budget**

- HH went over available funding, usage of service line item (Beaver deceivers and maintenance, conservation monitoring)
- MP asks if available funding for pond treatment will be sufficient
  - HH - yes, the request last year was enough for this year. For town meeting we may need to request additional for next year
- GB - when does the funding expire
  - HH CY2025
- HH might be a good idea to add some to service line in case beaver activity requires additional intervention
- MP - what is still owed on pond treatment? Where are those funds?
  - HH that is separate funds, not from the regular budget as funds are allocated at town meeting.

### **Review: Pond Treatment EOY Report**

- EOY report was added to the town website as of 12/14/23
- HH suggestion to adjust treatment in Flannagan to target lilies
- HH still pricing out hydro raking and other options to determine feasibility
  - Will reach out to other towns to get contact information and feedback on success
- JS Pine Meadow - crescent of phragmite - should we be concerned and treat before it spreads?



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- HH will reach out to Water & Wetland to see if they found this and what their suggestions for treatment would be
- JS Water Chestnuts in Flannagan - concerning but seems that they were found and pulled
  - HH W&W noted, pulled and did not find additional in later treatments
- JS Water Chestnut project proving to be very successful
- MP ask W&W to be consistent in color coding. Fanwort seems to have spread in Flannagan.
  - HH can bring the fanwort up to W&W, possibly due to significant rainfall.

### **Member/Office Updates**

- Office: HH
  - Has been quiet
  - 42 Park Street will be coming with an RDA as discussed at previous meeting
  - Has been working with DPW on stormwater items
  - Tree on East Main Street, beaver damage ended up falling towards the brook
  - No changes on Ayer Solar II, stream crossing has held with all of our rain
- Member:
  - MP: Did DPW finish crossing near water chestnut pull
    - HH still working on it, middle of November, will check on it.
  - MP: Updates on playground
    - HH Equipment won't be in until March. Working on sitework now. They are repurposing trees that were removed for seating.
- **7:49 PM – Adjourn Meeting**
  - G. Bacon moved to adjourn; M. Phillips 2<sup>nd</sup>.
    - Motion approved unanimously 4-0.

**Minutes Recorded and Submitted by Jen Amaya, Member**

**Date / Signature of Approval:** 1/25/2024 