

Conservation Commission Remote Meeting

Monday, December 6, 2021, 7:00 pm until 10:00 pm

Call-in virtual meeting (Go-to-Meeting)

A meeting of the [Conservation Commission](#)

Conservation Commission Remote Meeting

Mon, Dec 6, 2021 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM (EST)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/353837909>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: [+1\(408\) 650-3123](tel:+14086503123)

Access Code: 353-837-909

Meeting of [Conservation Commission](#)

Members: (Quorum)

- Remote: **David Powicki**, at 7:00 PM
- Remote: **Isaiah Robison**, Chair, at 7:00 PM
- Remote: **Ralph Tiner**, at 7:00 PM
- Remote: **Jono Neiger**, at 7:00 PM
- Remote: **Gail Berrigan**, at 7:00 PM
- Remote: **Joan Deely**, at 7:00 PM

Also Present:

- Tessa Dowling Conservation Agent (submitting minutes)
- Carol Heim
- Naomi Valentine (SWCA)
- Mickey Marcus (SWCA)
- Jack Czajkowski
- Brooke Thomas
- Brian Emond
- Michael David
- Claire Hopley
- Robert Hoplet
- Ben Bakker
- Kemper Carleen
- Tom Hankinson
- Rebecca Reid
- Sarah Robertson
- Tanya Cushman
- Stephen Freedman
- Steve Saxenion

*** * * DRAFT Meeting Minutes * * ***

Meeting opened: 7:01 PM

Meeting closed: 9:39 PM

0. Meeting Preliminaries

- Meeting Opened / Attendance Taken (see above).
- Minutes Approved: [Mon, Nov 8 - Conservation Commisison meeting](#)
- Minutes Approved: [Mon, Nov 15 - Conservation Commission Remote Meeting](#)

1. Public Hearing

7:15: Continued Hearing for Leverett Pond Weed Management NOI (DEP # 200-0196) and RDA - The NOI and RDA projects for Leverett Pond are intertwined at this point and therefore the hearings are opened and closed at the same time.

General Discussion...

Robison opened the NOI and RDA hearings together.

Berrigan presented an overview of the Leverett Pond management project submitted by the Friends of Leverett Pond and read out the specific sections of the Wetlands Protection Act relevant to the proposed work:

310 CMR 10 sections 10.04, 10.11, 10.12, 10.13, 10.54, and 10.56. The Commission also is considering the advice from the Department of Environmental Protection's Guidance for Plant Management in Lakes and Ponds.

She highlighted that these resources discuss mapping the distribution of target species, looking for long term success, and pre and post monitoring. A long term goal would be to move away from the use of herbicides.

Then two staff members from SWCA, Mickey Marcus and Naomi Valentine- the environmental consultants hired by the Friends of Leverett Pond- reviewed the report they created after surveying the pond during the summer of 2021 and analyzing fish studies by Fish and Wildlife staff. The report represents baseline conditions for the pond.

Valentine screen shares the report.

Mickey reviews the dissolved oxygen data and fish survey data. The dissolved oxygen was low in some areas with high percentages of vegetation. There are three fish surveys, - from 1981, 1994, and 2021 - which were hard to compare due to the different survey methods that were used between years, but overall the fish population is healthy.

The Commission asked SWCA questions about the oxygen and fish data.

Then the Commission, SWCA, and Friends of Leverett Pond reviewed the distribution maps for the invasive plants. There are maps from both SWCA and Friends of Leverett Pond.

The Commission asked about motor boat use on the pond because propellers can facilitate the spread of fragments of the invasive milfoil. Per Mitch Mulholland, motor boat use is mostly in the early spring before the invasives are really growing.

The NOI proposes to create open channels in the pond to improve the habitat for fish. Clearing areas of vegetation for fish is indicated as a management strategy by the state guidance. The cleared areas would also improve recreation on the pond.

The public was given time to provide comments and ask questions.

People spoke in support of the Friends and managing the vegetation on the pond. Others expressed concerns about the length of time that the hearing has been continued and the inclusion of a pond drawdown as a method to control invasive plants.

The state guidance does include drawdowns as a method for invasive control with specific regulations.

Mickey has sent the Commission a draft order of conditions for the project.

The Commission will review the conditions, and the state standards and guidance, before the next meeting and requests that the Friends of Leverett Pond send them an updated NOI form that reflects the changes in the work proposal based on the SWCA report.

MOTION, moved by David Powicki, seconded by Joan Deely: to continue the Leverett Pond Weed Management NOI and RDA to the January meeting. .

Pass: Aye: David Powicki, Ralph Tiner, Gail Berrigan, Jono Neiger, Isaiah Robison, Joan Deely.

2. Administrative Matters

7:07: Emergency Certification-Eversource ROW

General Discussion...

Eversource has requested an emergency certificate to remote beaver created woody debris that is causing flooding at a utility structure along the Right of Way off Juggler Meadow Rd. The flooding is jeopardizing the stability of the structure. The Board of Health supports the removal of the debris.

The Commission requests that the Eversource find a long term solution so woody debris does not cause flooding in the area again, but will issue the emergency certification.

MOTION, moved by Joan Deely, seconded by David Powicki: to approve an emergency certificate for Eversource to remove the woody debris that is causing flooding and threatening a utility structure off Juggler Meadow Rd. .

Pass: Aye: David Powicki, Ralph Tiner, Gail Berrigan, Jono Neiger, Isaiah Robison, Joan Deely.

9:27: Site visit scheduling/Follow-up

General Discussion...

The Commission planned a site visit to 24 Putney Rd for December 11, 2021 at 9am to view the restoration plants located within the pond buffer zone with the permission of the landowners.

9:38: Town ConCom Budget FY23**General Discussion...**

This agenda item is moved to the next meeting.

3. Old Business**9:36: Conservation agent position****General Discussion...**

This item was moved to the next meeting.

9:37: Town Highway Department project**General Discussion...**

This item was moved to the next meeting.

4. New Business**9:31: 36 Cave Hill Rd****General Discussion...**

Ben Bakker, landowner at 36 Cave Hill Rd, attended the meeting to ask if he can install two raised garden beds within the riverfront area of a stream. The beds would be approximately 25 feet from the stream on existing lawn.

The Commission asked that Bakker keep an nutrients and fertilizer from going into the stream but state that the project is exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act as they consider the beds to be temporary structures. No permit is required.

5. Other New Business not considered as of the date of this notice

6. Meeting Wrap-up

- Next Meeting:
 1. [Mon, Jan 10, at 7:00 PM](#) "Conservation Commission Remote Meeting" -- *Call-in virtual meeting (Go-to-Meeting)*
- Meeting Closed at 9:39 PM.

The listing of matters is those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Minutes prepared by Tessa Dowling (Conservation Agent)

Posted to: [Conservation Commission](#)

[Last touched by concom]