

**Conservation Commission
Minutes (final, approved April 11th)
February 24, 2022**

Virtual Meeting 7:00 pm

Present: David P., Isaiah R., Ralph T., Joan D., Lisa S.

The purpose of this extra meeting was to conduct interviews for the Conservation Commission Agent position.

Adam Kohl was the first person interviewed. He has been the ConCom agent for Wendell for 3 years and previous to that was on the Wendell Conservation Commission. He said that he is self-taught; he is a botanist. He has experience issuing RDAs, NOIs and ANRADs. He is comfortable running remote meetings and is versed in the Wetlands Protection Act and would be happy to continue taking classes through MACC. He stated that he would be interested in helping with the Trails Committee. The hours of the position would work well with his current hours in Wendell.

Erin Jacque was the next person interviewed. She worked as ConCom Agent in Leverett about 12 years ago. She is currently Amherst's Agent (or equivalent thereof). Erin has a Masters Degree in GIS and a Masters Degree in Wetland Plant Identification. She is certified by MACC. She has worked with Eversource mapping and consulting and has extensive experience with the Rivers Act. She currently works full-time for Amherst. She did not feel that she had time for office hours in Leverett and was hesitant about evening meetings. She reminisced about her time in Leverett and likes the community.

The Commission felt that Erin had the expertise in regulations that they are looking for, forwards and back. Her admission that she doesn't have the time for the expanded hours (from 5 to 10/week) was problematic at this time. Erin offered to help as a consultant if she was not chosen for the position.

Although Adam was less qualified professionally the Commission felt that his experience in Wendell for 3 years proves that he can do the job. He was confident that he had the time for office hours and meetings. Isaiah will follow up with Adam's references.

Meeting adjourned: 8:25 pm