

**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes
September 21, 2017 (Thursday)
Marlborough City Hall – 3rd Floor, Memorial Hall
7:00 PM**

Present: Edward Clancy-Chairman, Allan White, Lawrence Roy, Karin Paquin, John Skarin, and Priscilla Ryder – Conservation Officer

Absent: Dennis Demers;

Approval of Minutes–The minutes of September 7, 2017 were reviewed and unanimously approved 6-0.

Public Hearing:

Notice of Intent

Fort Meadow Commission – Shoreline weed removal treatment

Ms. Ryder explained that Lee Thomson was at a meeting in Hudson and couldn't attend until later. She explained the Notice of Intent (NOI) request - The Fort Meadow Commission is seeking approval to perform an invasive non-native plant species removal program along the shoreline of Ft. Meadow Reservoir located in Hudson and Marlborough MA. The objective of this shoreline program is to provide specific herbicide control of the non-native invasive plants that have been found along the shoreline which are becoming nuisance plants including, but not limited to Phragmites or common reed (*Phragmites australis*). The recent survey of the lake by Solitude Inc. indicated that there were 12 patches of Phragmites all along the shoreline, a map showing these locations was provided in the NOI. The herbicide to be used has glyphosate as the active ingredient which is a systemic herbicide meaning it will be absorbed by the plant and transported to the roots to kill the plant. Common product names are Rodeo/Roundup/Aquapro. There are no water restrictions when these items are sprayed, however it is recommended that no swimming or water use around the sprayed area happen within 24 hours after spraying to allow the herbicide to work. The herbicide will be sprayed from a boat, but in some areas the Phragmites has marched up the shoreline into yards. In these areas, a backpack and hand-held sprayer will be used. The Ft. Meadow Commission will notify the abutters where spraying is to occur and get them to provide approval for shoreline spraying, so those homeowners are aware of what is happening. They will also be educated about the next steps once the treatment has had a chance to take effect. As described the leaf and stock materials that are left should be cut down and either bagged and tossed in the trash or burned. The Commission asked the question as to whether the cut material could be burned in the sand area once the water is drawn down in the winter. The Commission discussed this and thought it might be a good idea if it's OK with the fire department and can be controlled. Ms. Ryder will inquire. Over time other non-native invasive plants as identified by SuAsCo Cisma and other state lists, may invade the shoreline. The Ft. Meadow Commission and Associations around the lake will need to keep an eye out for these invasives and try to get them early. But in the event, they spread, this permit request is to be able to treat them with herbicides as needed. The suggested protocol is for the Ft. Meadow Commission to identify areas needing treatment or retreatment each year. Make a formal written request to the Hudson and Marlborough Commissions with the target plant and herbicide to be used. If other than glyphosate,

the MSDS sheet for the herbicide to be used and any use restrictions shall be included in the request. Both Commission's will review the request at a regularly scheduled meeting and determine if it is approved or not. After some discussion about using the swipe method - herbicide on a gloved hand to wipe the stems, and additional discussion about burning and water quality testing before and after treatments and what the baseline water quality might be, the meeting was opened to the public. Anna McGinty of Cullinane Dr. was wondering about any effect of the herbicide on dogs and restrictions that should be included. She also noted that there is a Lakeshore Association who might be able to help with some of the coordination and education around the lake. She would be willing to volunteer to help too. The Commission discussed that she could work with Ft. Meadow Commission and Ms. Ryder to come up with workshops to raise awareness of issues and items around the lake. Alda Braga from Blaiswood Ave. asked questions about the weed control and indicated that her shoreline water quality used to be so much better, but lately she won't swim in it. After some discussion, the Commission closed the hearing. Later in the meeting they reviewed a set of draft Order of Conditions. Ms. Ryder noted she has worked on these with the Hudson Commission agent as well and that the two Commissions should issue the same order. The Commission reviewed the Order of Conditions; amended a few conditions and voted unanimously 6-0 to issue the Order of Conditions as drafted and amended. If Hudson adds a condition that is reasonable, the Commission agrees to mirror their conditions and this can be included as well.

Certificate of Compliance:

- DEP 212-1166 19 Forest St. – full Certificate - Ms. Ryder noted that she has been out to the site at 19 Forest St. and all the conditions of the Order of Conditions have been met including the removal of erosion controls. The Commission voted unanimously to issue a full Certificate of Compliance.

Dates of Interest:

- Ft. Meadow drawdown – scheduled to start October 2, 2017
- Hazardous Waste Collection Day – September 30, 2017

Discussion:

- Talia -Ames St. (aka Brook View) DEP 212-1117 - The erosion control consultant requested by e-mail that since the site has been stabilized and grass is growing and erosion controls have been removed, that they stop their weekly and during storm event monitoring. The Commission reviewed this request and agreed that the project is complete. They should request a Certificate of Compliance soon to clear the title to the property.
- Talia Ames St. (aka Brook View) – walking trail - Ms. Ryder noted that there has been discussion about trying to add a walking trail down near the detention basin (towards Rte. 20) to connect into the bridge behind the apartments, with the second option being to use the existing sidewalks through their property. Mr. Clancy and Ms. Paquin agreed to walk the trail to review and provide some feedback. They will walk on Friday.

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Priscilla Ryder, Conservation Officer