

**MINUTES**  
**WEST BOYLSTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**SEPTEMBER 22, 2015 SPECIAL MEETING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** William Chase, Chair, John Hadley, Vice-Chair, Charlene Hopkins, Vice Chair, David Eckhardt, Associate Member.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mark Meola, and Clerk Toby Goldstein.

**SIGN IN ATTENDEES:** Joy Trahan-Liptak for DCR ([joy.trahan-liptak@state.ma.us](mailto:joy.trahan-liptak@state.ma.us))

Jamie Carr for DCR ([jamie.carr@state.ma.us](mailto:jamie.carr@state.ma.us))

Susan Gannon (civilian re: potential ALB issues)

(Note: Ms. Hopkins recorded the minutes at this meeting).

At 7:00 pm, Mr. Eckhardt moved to open the meeting. Mr. Mercurio seconded. All in favor.

**DCR Request for Determination of Applicability, the Lily Ponds, 131 Lancaster Street:**

(Mr. Chase first pointed out that Lily Ponds are located at 131 Lancaster Street, not 131 Temple Street as identified on the posted Agenda and publication notice. The Request for Determination form submitted by DCR listed the address as Temple Street also). Jamie Carr presented for DCR. He explained in detail how the two (2) invasive plants identified in the request were spreading throughout Lily Pond and concern is they will eventually spread to the reservoir, which would have a negative impact on the reservoir and public drinking supply.

Members of the Commission questioned how they spread and what was good vs. bad. Mr. Carr explained that the plants are food for water fowl which spread the plants and seeds and that this is happening throughout ponds in our region as well as two other regions. Mr. Eckhardt asked what the treatment consisted of and Mr. Carr explained that they would hire a contractor to apply herbicide which is effective without spreading into water resources and it also doesn't harm the aquatic wildlife living in the pond and it would require ongoing repeat applications of the herbicide to eradicate the invasive plants. Mr. Eckhardt then opined that if there is a need for ongoing maintenance and Concomm issues a negative determination tonight could it be ongoing for a three (3) year period and Mr. Chase confirmed. Mr. Eckhardt then asked Mr. Carr if this maintenance would take more than a year and Mr. Carr confirmed so Mr. Chase said we should make the determination good for three years so DCR doesn't have to come back to finish this project. Joy Trahan-Liptak, DCR's aquatic engineer, said that it would take a couple of days to work for each cycle of herbicide applied and Mr. Carr said that these systematic treatments work best for total eradication of the invasive plants. Mr. Chase confirmed we should issue the determination for three years and all were in agreement. Mr. Eckhardt then made a motion to issue a negative determination with conditions being it is a maintenance-based project intended to protect the water supply with DCR to issue semi-annual reports and that the determination would remain in effect for three years through 9/22/18. Mr. Hadley seconded the motion. All in favor.

Commission members finalized and signed the document and provided a copy to Mr. Carr so they could make further applications, which they could do even while awaiting the appeal period to lapse. Mr. Carr was advised that our secretary would finalize the original document, copy for our file and then mail to him. (The original document was put back in the Concomm's file and file was put back in Concomm mail slot for secretary follow-up).

**Informal Discussion (Potential ALB Issues, Lancaster Street):**

Susan Gannon then came up for an informal discussion. She resides at 371 Lancaster Street and is part of a condominium association in that area that has solicited bids to cut down numerous dead trees. She had with her a bid from WM Tree & Stump Company identifying (7) dead trees and stating that they are Ash trees, which species may be an ALB host species. Susan was inquiring if ALB inspection would have been done in their area. Mr. Eckhardt said all trees in West Boylston have been inspected once and that host species are the soft hardwoods such as Maple trees and that Ash trees are one of the harder hardwoods used to make baseball bats. He then advised Susan to contact Nancy Lucier at Town Hall to obtain the telephone number of the ALB people so she can confirm that Ash trees are not host species and/or have the trees inspected prior to moving forward with removal of trees. Mr. Mercurio said he was aware of problems on Lancaster Street with many dead Ash trees and that he's dealt with the government removal place for ALB trees located within the Saint Gobain campus near Exit 2 of I-190 and that there is an office there where Susan could also go to get further information and that the people working there are very knowledgeable and helpful so if she couldn't get help on the phone, then she could just stop into office.

**Information Discussion (Concomm By-Laws):**

Mr. Mercurio wanted to confirm his e-mails that, since he could not attend the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Commission moved meeting with Mark Archambeault of the NRWA to November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. He would also like to invite Vincent Vignaly from Planning Board who assisted in making the proposed edits as well as the entire By-Laws Committee so it would be a joint public meeting, that way they can wrap up the revisions, have approval/recommendation of all boards and go to Town Meeting in May. All members agreed. (Concomm secretary to send email to Vinny Vignaly and By-Laws Committee inviting to November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting).

Ms. Hopkins made a motion to close the public meeting at 7:45 p.m. Mr. Chase seconded. All in favor.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ (for Charlene Hopkins)  
Date accepted: \_\_\_\_\_