



City of Watertown
Conservation Commission
Administration Building
149 Main St.
Watertown, MA 02472

Maria P. Rose, Chair
Jamie O'Connell, Vice Chair
Leo Martin, Member
Rachel Danford, Member
Patrick Towler, Member
Marilyn Salvas, Member

MINUTES

Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 2, 2025, 7:00 PM, Remote Meeting on Zoom

Conservation Commission Members Present: Maria Rose, Jamie O'Connell, Leo Martin, Rachel Danford, Patrick Towler, and Marilyn Salvas

Absent: N/A

Also Present: N/A

Staff Present: Katie Swan, Conservation Agent, and Susan Jenness, Assistant

Rose chaired the meeting and took roll call.

1. Updates

A. Chair Announcements

- The draft FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) will be available soon and the draft Floodplain Overlay District zoning amendment was submitted to City Council for first read for Planning Board approval. Rose gave a brief overview of the flood maps and why FEMA is requiring City and Towns who are enrolled with the Flood Insurance Program need to update their floodplain ordinances. Commission members asked to have a general overview by City Staff on the changes to the City's Floodplain Ordinance updates and changes with the FIRMs at the next meeting.

- The Charles River Watershed Association has a call for volunteers to participate in their third annual Charles River Herring Count. The program takes place from April 14th through June 30th for volunteers to collect data on Herring and other migratory fish species that come through the Watertown Dam fish ladder to spawn in the Charles (one of several dams along the Charles).
- Charles River Watershed Association is holding a cleanup event on April 25-26th.
- Rose shared about the Mass Rivers Alliance Webinars, Dam Busters webinar, series hosted by Mass Rivers Alliance and DER. The topics include dam financing, restoration, permitting, etc.

A. CPC Update: O’Connell missed the last CPC meeting and will share updates at the May meeting.

B. Agent Report

- **Ongoing Site Monitoring:** Swan has been visiting sites to check on the leafing out of vegetation and any erosion control issues.
 - **580 Pleasant Street:** Swan conducted a site visit on 12/11/24 during a two (2) inch rainstorm at 580 Pleasant Street and found that a stormwater BMP Flared End Section (FES) was not working correctly (it was observed that water was coming out under the backend and down the hillside into the river). Swan met with the property engineer on 12/13/24 to look at the issue. Next steps:
 - Install temporary erosion and siltation controls (below the FES) and follow up with photos when installed, and
 - 580 Pleasant Street management team will follow up with their stormwater engineer to look at the specs of the FES.
 - Follow up with the Property Manager and Engineer, that they will have a stormwater contractor to look at what needs to be done for next steps in early April.
- **Whitney Hill RFP:** Swan reported that she is still working through the outstanding issues on the RFP and will send out an updated copy to the working group once she completes adding in all their comments. She will keep members updated as this progresses.
- **Meeting Format:** A brief discussion was held on the meeting format (remote vs hybrid). Many members concurred that it is easier for them to attend meetings remotely than in person as attending in person may pose more challenges. Swan will follow up with Steve Magoon on what the requirements are for holding meetings online and hybrid. Members will have a final discussion before deciding what format they should adopt for the future meetings until current COVID provisions under Open Meeting law expire on June 30, 2027.

1. Acceptance of Minutes

A. March 5, 2025, Conservation Commission minutes were approved with amendments.

Motion: Salvas made a motion to accept the minutes of March 5, 2025, meeting as amended. Towler seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Members were polled, and all agreed with the motion made by Salvas.

2. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm. Salvas seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Members were polled, and all agreed with the motion made by Martin.