

Conservation Commission Draft Minutes 9-22-2025

Attendance: Seth, Joan, Bill, David (absence Sarah)

Members of the public: Samuel Black, Ward Smith, Andrew McCallum, and Sandra Susse

RDA: Resource area delineation for Pratt Corner Rd (Parcel IDs 8-0-152C & 8-0-152D, just south of 233 Pratt Corner Rd) & Discussion: potential RDA for garden on 8-0-152D

Ward Smith, and the property owner Andrew McCallum, presented the plans for clearing a section of forest to create a garden along the property line abutting Pratt Corner Road. The worksite is within 100 feet of a stream identified as a perennial stream on the USGS maps. The question posed in the request for determination was whether or not this perennial stream is in fact an intermittent stream. If an intermittent stream, then the riverfront regulations do not apply to this worksite. Ward presented his findings from site surveys conducted in July 2025, which showed that there was no flow of water down the stream bed. It's confirmed that this work was done prior to the start date of the drought defined by the state, which was in early August. The commission agreed that the stream should be classified as an intermittent stream, and therefore, the work would not have to conform to riverfront regulations.

The Commission voted: A positive 2a determination with a note added to the document saying that the stream was not a perennial stream. Motion made by David Powicki and approved by the commission. (NOTE - No paperwork was signed by the commission)

Following that discussion, we reviewed with the property owner and Ward Smith that they would be submitting another request for determination related to the work that will be conducted to construct the garden area. Their plan is to submit that for a future meeting.

Possible change to OOC for FONLS #200-0205

Sam Black reviewed some questions and concerns that were raised about cribbing supporting foot bridges located along walking paths. They were constructed in the summer of 2024 under an order of conditions approved by the Conservation Commission. The order of conditions specified that their bridges should sit on cribbing that is pinned to the ground using rebar. The bridges were constructed differently than as described in the order of conditions. After discussion of options, the recommendation was that Sam would reach out to local builders to review options for more securely affixing the bridges to the ground in the event of a flood.

Updates to Hicks/Botta land donation pending parcel split

Seth and Bill updated the commission that there have been discussions with the planning board on next steps. The property owners that were reviewing options for partitioning and surveying the land. There will be a meeting with Seth and Bill and the landowners in October.

Public inquiries

Sandra Susse asked the Commission to provide guidance on the need to file any paperwork with the Conservation Commission concerning a new deep well to be installed at 66 Montague Road. The Commission reviewed the relevant information on the MassGIS online database and determined that the work area would be outside any resource area. They advised that she would not need to file an RDA or NOI.

Commission's review of Conservation Agent's Report and Materials

Update on OSRP - commission happy to hear that we have an extension

Account ledger view - follow up question for Agent - can the actual language of the \$91K bequest be shared with commission? Also, the expenses already spent against the 91K do not appear to be reflected in the ledger.

Minutes for August 4th and July 21st meetings approved.

Next meeting:

- Commission decided to schedule next meeting for October 6th
- Contact McCallum and Ward Smith concerning when the RDA needs to be submitted
- Update from Sam Black on FONLS's pedestrian bridges

Minutes taken by David Powicki.

Approved 10/6/25.