

**ANDOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MAY 25, 2016**

Town of Andover
36 Bartlet Street
3rd Floor Conference Room A
8:15am

Conservation Members in Attendance:

Chairman Don Cooper, Vice Chairman Kevin Porter, Commissioner Alix Driscoll, Commissioner Ellen Townson, Commissioner Jon Honea and Commissioner Floyd Greenwood. Staff members present was Robert Douglas, Director of Conservation, and Linda Cleary Conservation Agent.

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

Harold Parker State Forest

Present in Interest: (no one signed the Sign-In sheet) Pat Keck, Anne Carroll, Joshua Burgoyne, Margaret Stein, Beth Thompson

Staff Recommendation: Approve

Continued Public Hearing on a Notice of Intent filed by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, § 40 and/or the Andover Wetlands Protection By-law, Article XIV, for proposed Aquatic Plant Management Project at **Harold Parker State Forest**.

Mr. Douglas presented this to the Commission. The subcommittee of Commissioner Honea, Commissioner Townson and Commissioner Greenwood conducted further research and looked at the ecosystem and invasive treatments with herbicides and found no evidence of lasting negative impacts. They recommend mirroring the special conditions issued for the herbicide treatment of Foster's Pond. Chairman Cooper agreed in that Foster's Pond treatment has set a precedence for this type of treatment of invasives. An additional special condition to be added requiring each abutter be notified in writing to limit lawn fertilizer within 25 feet of the edge of the pond. Commissioner Townson also asked that a special condition requiring the applicant to post signs that there can be no recreation use of the pond within 14 days after treatment and send a letter to the abutters stating the same.

Commissioner Greenwood stated that any negative consequences would appear years later and this should be monitored moving forward.

Vice Chairman Porter advised the applicant that any future filings will require an alternatives analysis.

Chairman Cooper stated that there was a precedent for this treatment with Foster's Pond; There would be no irreparable harm with issuing an approval; The presence of invasives is not a natural environment in the pond; The removal of the invasives is not disturbing a natural environment; The Commission encourages removal of invasives; and The decision can always be appealed. Beth Thompson of North Reading stated that herbicides were applied in 2006 and 2008 without success and in 2011 herbicides were used to remove the invasives. She provided a handout to the Commission.

Margaret Stein asked the Commission to consider unintended consequences from the use of the herbicide.

Pat Keck asked about the wells for drinking water within ¼ of a mile of the pond.

Joshua Burgoyne informed the Commission that the herbicides used were not toxic to humans or fish unless extremely high doses are used. MA Department of Conservation and Recreation have approved this for use. 25 parts per billion will be used whereas 150 parts per billion will affect the drinking water. A public search was done for public wells using GIS and none were found within ¼ mile of the pond. Sonar breaks down quickly and becomes non-toxic within days.

Diquat will weaken milfoil on contact and kills quickly. Hot spots will be identified and additional treatment will be applied there.

Vice Chairman Porter made a Motion to close the public hearing; it was seconded by Commissioner Driscoll and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Honea made a Motion to Approve as amended with 14 day notice and alternatives analysis; it was seconded by Commissioner Greenwood and unanimously approved.

Letter of Approval

Present in Interest: Susan Stott

Approval of letter to hold Conservation Restriction over property to be purchased by AVIS along the Merrimack River and River Road.

Vice Chairman Porter made a Motion to Approve the Conservation Restriction; it was seconded by Commissioner Driscoll and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00am by motion of Commissioner Driscoll; seconded by Commissioner Honea and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by,

**Lynn Viselli,
Recording Secretary**