

2015 CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Conservation Department processed twenty-four (24) Notices of Intent, thirty-three (33) Requests for Determinations, twenty-five (25) Small Projects, five (5) Abbreviated Notices of Resource Area Delineation, thirty-three (33) Certificates of Compliance, two (2) extension requests and two (2) amendments/modifications for a total of 124 Permits. In addition, numerous Emergency Certifications and Enforcement Orders were issued.
- Updated the Bylaw Regulations to incorporate changes made to the Wetland Protection Act Regulations. Changes included adding categories to the Small Project Permit and instituting a fee for wetland delineation review over 100 linear feet.
- Continued work on the Open Space Plan update with the assistance of Brown Walker Planners of Newburyport and Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC). The plan is taking longer than expected due to extensive research being done to verify that the list of town owned parcels, conservation restrictions, easements, Chapter 61 lands, PRD protected lands, and other relevant parcels is accurate and up to date. MVPC has completed an update to the maps and final work is complete and the draft plan has been submitted to the EOEEA for review.
- Received a Community Forest Stewardship Implementation Grant in the amount of \$11,790 to conduct forest stewardship activities at Osgood Hill. A selective timber harvest was conducted in March of 2015. Work to monitor the harvested area and conduct additional invasive species removal will continue into the new fiscal year. The town received a reimbursement for the forest management activities in the amount of \$9,274. The remainder of the grant monies will be received when invasive species work is finished in the coming year.
- Significant projects included: completion of construction at Pentucket Bank in the Butcher Boy Marketplace, start of construction and monitoring activities at the Berry Street/Riding Academy 40B, permitting of a demolition and reconstruction at the West Mill on High Street, permitting of runway safety areas at the Lawrence Municipal Airport and a sewer maintenance project for the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District (GLSD). A new subdivision was also permitted on Great Pond Road, construction continued on the Regency Place subdivision and the final houses in the Molly Towne Subdivision were permitted and are under construction. Brooks School replaced a portion of the stone retaining wall in Lake Cochichewick that supports their floating docks. The Department of Public Works permitted a new sewer pump station at Rea's Pond and Mass DOT permitted storm water improvements at the I495/Mass Avenue interchange. The Friends of North Andover Trails renewed their trail maintenance permit.
- NPDES Public Education: continue installation, maintenance and monitoring of dog waste stations at open space properties and work with Greenscapes including a program at the library to educate citizens on water conservation and the use of native landscape plantings. This was held in conjunction with the Ipswich River Watershed Association and the North Andover Wildlife Team.
- Open Space efforts included: installation of wood duck boxes along Mosquito Brook, marking of trails at Windrush Farm, continued efforts to remove invasive species at Osgood Hill; forest stewardship walk at Osgood Hill following the timber harvest; trail maintenance at the Ridge and Scout Trails at Mazurenko Farm by Friends of North Andover Trails (FONAT). FONAT holds trail work days, often on town open space, the first Saturday of the month spring through fall. Conservation restriction monitoring was conducted at Boston Hill.