

TOWN OF OTIS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

6/17/2025 MEETING MINUTES

Location: Otis Town Hall, One North Main Road, Otis

Conservation Commission Members present: Dave Sarnacki, Bruce Wall, Jeff Laramy Domenic Battista, Chris Chaffee, Candy Chaffee

Conservation Commission Members absent: Roger Meyer, Jennifer Rivers Cole

Opening items/Introduction of Commission members and staff. Dave opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and noted that the meeting is being recorded. Dave introduced the members of the commission, and asked everyone to turn off/down their cell phones for the duration of the meeting. The deadline for applications for the July 15th, 2025 @ 6:00 PM meeting is on Wednesday, July 2nd, 2025 by 3:00PM. The next office hours, for the July 15th, 2025 meeting, is on Wednesday July 2nd, 2025 by 3:00PM.

Minutes: Dave made a motion to approve minutes from the May 20th, 2025 meeting; DB 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the May 20th 2025 meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Public Hearing – RDA – Submitted by Peter Pappas., 0 Brookman Dr., regarding the removal of 2 dead trees endangering homes, all within the BZ of Otis Reservoir. Bruce spoke in regards to this RDA. With all the being said, Dave made a motion of a -3 determination with the following special conditions – cease and desist any further cutting of trees and that a subsequent RDA be submitted for the removal of a tree that was not approved. BW 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to issue a -3 determination with special conditions.

Public Hearing – NOI – Submitted by Thomas Valton - Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), on behalf of Priscilla Geigis, Tolland Rd., regarding pavement resurfacing of Tolland Road & drainage improvements, all within the BZ of Otis Reservoir. The applicant has requested a continuance until next month's meeting. With that being said Dave made a motion to grant the continuance. DB 2nd the motion and Commission voted unanimously to grant the continuance.

Public Hearing – NOI – Amended – Submitted by Dave Donahue & Mark Amanti – D&J Development, Westshore Road 15/76/1 to 1341 Reservoir Road 16/B/1, in regards to the installation of waterline wetlands crossing. Chris recused himself from this NOI. Dave made a motion to grant the Amended NOI with the conditions that they wait for dryer weather and use the crane mats to keep the Excavator up out of the mud causing less disturbance to the area and saving the organic materials on top to be reused after the trench is dug. BW 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to grant the Amended NOI, the Commission voted unanimously to issue a -3 determination with special conditions.

EMERGENCY CERTIFICATIONS:

Submitted by Elisa Romm, 23 N Lake Ave, in regards to a dead tree that is hanging over her patio and is endanger of falling on patio. Dave made a motion to grant the Emergency Order. CC 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to grant the Emergency Order.

ENFORCEMENT ORDER:

19 Pine Grove Ridge, Map 15D Lot 1, Amy Humphrey in regards to work that is being done in the resource area without approval. Dave asked if anyone was there in regards to this EO. Chris recused himself from this Enforcement Order. The homeowner and contractor were both there to discuss this issue. Mrs. Humphrey explained exactly what is going on with the water issues on her property. She has requested that we allow her landscaper to get back on her property so they can take care of all the water issues that is occurring on the property. After discussion between the commission, contractor and home owner Dave made a motion to ratify the Enforcement Order and allow work to continue on the property, BW 2nd the motion to ratify the Enforcement Order and the Commission voted unanimously to ratify the Enforcement Order.

Follow up from last month's meeting - 0 Stebbins Road, Map 10 Lot 1, Blue Dog Development – Hal Kobrin, in regards to work that is being done in the resource area without approval. Dave explained that we have been in contact with the Wetlands Specialist that the home owner is working on in regards to this EO and the commission will be scheduling a time to meet with the Specialist.

Follow up from last month's meeting - 306 Kibbe Rd, Donald & Chet Galaska. In regards to work that is being done in the resource area without approval. Dave discussed that the NOI was never filed like it was requested and we sent out a certified letter requesting that an NOI is to be filed by July 2nd for the July 15th meeting. If the NOI is not submitted for the July meeting we will be submitting another EO and we will be contacting legal counsel.

ANY OTHER TOPICS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR:

Reconstitute the board. The commission discussed reconstituting the board for the next meeting. Dave is going to reach out to Brandi Page the Town Admin in regards this and will follow up at the next meeting.

Discuss meeting date for August. Candy explained that she will be on vacation for the next meeting and requested that the meeting date is changed to August 26th, 2025 at 6:00pm. Dave and the commission agreed on the new meeting date.

Discussion in regards to a bridge being installed behind Pages Place. It was brought to Bruces attention by Larry Gould that there has been a bridge installed across the stream that is in the flood plain. Bruce is going to visit the owners of Pages Place and explain that paperwork needs to be filed for this bridge.

Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:46