

TOWN OF OTIS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

7/15/2025 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 August 26th, 2025 @ 6:00 PM meeting is on Wednesday, August 6th, 2025 by 3:00PM. The next office hours, for the August 26th, 2025 meeting, is on Wednesday August 6th, 2025 by 3:00PM.

Minutes: Dave made a motion to approve minutes from the June 17th, 2025 meeting; BW 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the June 17th 2025 meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Public Hearing – RDA – Submitted by P & M Masonry on behalf of Howard Newton, 82 South Gate Island Rd., Map 17C Lot 107, regarding the removal of old block retaining wall & replacing it with a new stone retaining wall, all within the BZ of Otis Reservoir. With all the being said, Dave made a motion of a -3 determination. BW 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to issue a -3 determination with special conditions.

Public Hearing – RDA – Submitted by D & J Development, 1367 Reservoir Rd., Map 55 Lot 77, regarding the removal of dead trees above docks, all within the BZ of Otis Reservoir. With all the being said, Dave made a motion of a -3 determination with standard conditions. DB 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to issue a -3 determination with standard conditions.

Public Hearing – RDA – Submitted by Peter Pappas, 0 Brookman Dr., Map 18C Lot 57, regarding the removal of a dead tree, all within the BZ of Otis Reservoir. With all the being said, Dave made a motion of a -3 determination with standard conditions. JL 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to issue a -3 determination with standard conditions.

Public Hearing – RDA – Submitted by Raphael Atzmon, 28 Highland Way, Map 10E Lot 41 regarding the removal of 3 trees and trimming of trees, all within the BZ of Benton Brook. With all the being said, Dave made a motion of a -3 determination with standard conditions. BW 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to issue a -3 determination with standard conditions.

Public Hearing – RDA – Submitted by Craig Tighe, 0 D’Wolfe Dr., Map 7A Lot 54 regarding the replacement of failing 12” culvert with a new 12” culvert, all within the BZ of Watson Pond. With all the being said, Dave made a motion of a -3 determination with standard conditions. CC 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to issue a -3 determination with standard conditions.

Public Hearing – RDA – Submitted by Doot Construction on behalf of Steve Barry, 237 D’Wolfe Dr., Map 7A Lot 58, regarding the addition of a bedroom 16x28 & bathroom, all within the BZ Watson Pond. With all the being said, Dave made a motion of a -3 determination as initiated on the plans. CC 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to issue a -3 determination as initiated on the plans.

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. Dave made a motion to grant the NOI with special conditions that DCR must communicate with the Commission within 2 weeks prior to open and closing the gate. CC 2nd the motion and Commission voted unanimously to grant the NOI with special conditions.

Public Hearing – NOI – Amended – Submitted by Chet Galaska - 306 Kibbe Rd., Map 9B Lot 30 regarding the removal of boathouse, concrete piers and steel beam, all within the BZ of Otis Reservoir. Dave made a motion to grant the NOI with standard conditions. DB 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to grant the Amended NOI, the Commission voted unanimously grant the NOI with standard conditions.

EMERGENCY CERTIFICATIONS:

Submitted by Bob Mason on behalf of Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Tolland State Beach, in regards to a dead tree that is a fire hazard. Dave made a motion to grant the Emergency Order. JL 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to grant the Emergency Order.

Submitted by Mike Dowd - 26 Moody Goodman Rd., Map 17B Lot 4 in regards to 3 dead trees in danger of falling and damaging property or injuring someone. Dave made a motion to grant the Emergency Order. CC 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to grant the Emergency Order.

Submitted by Eric Hollander - 52 Drive G., Map 18C Lot 6 in regards to the removal of a clump of diseased trees that are leaning over the house on the north side. Dave made a motion to grant the Emergency Order with addition that the homeowner files an RDA for the August meeting and to notify the commission once the trees are removed. JL 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to grant the Emergency Order with the addition that the homeowner files an RDA for the August meeting.

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 and she will be submitting an NOI for next months meeting.

Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49