

TOWN OF OTIS
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

4/15/2025 MEETING MINUTES

Location: Otis Town Hall, One North Main Road, Otis – Zoom Meeting

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

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 May 19th, 2025 @ 6:00 PM meeting is on Wednesday, May 7th, 2025 by 3:00PM. The next office hours, for the May 19th, 2025 meeting, is on Wednesday May 7th, 2025 by 3:00PM.

Minutes: Dave made a motion to approve minutes from the March 18th, 2025 meeting; DB 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the March 18th 2025 meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Public Hearing – RDA – Submitted by Town of Otis, North Blandford Rd., regarding the removal & replacement of 8 roadway cross culverts & headwalls, all within the BZ of Springfield Water Supply. 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.

Public Hearing – RDA – Submitted by Brad Johnson, 152 Kingsley Rd., map 7A lot 19, regarding the replenishment of sand with new title 5 sand on beach in front of home, all within the BZ of Watson Pond. With all the being said, Dave made a motion of a -3 determination with standard conditions with the addition of using title 5 sand. DB 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to issue a -3 determination.

Public Hearing – RDA – Submitted by Stephen Gladding, Kingsley Rd., map 7A lot 29, regarding the installation of a 10 x 125” gravel access to waterfront, all within the BZ of Watson Pond. After discussion amongst the conservation commission and the homeowner, not being present Dave made a motion to continue to next month’s meeting. JL 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to issue a -3 determination.

Public Hearing – RDA – Submitted by Elisa Romm, 23 N. Lake Ave., map 18A lot 39 & 40, regarding the repair of a stonewall that borders property to the south, all within the BZ of Otis Reservoir. After discussion amongst the conservation commission, the homeowner, the contractor and the neighbor, Dave made a motion of a -3 determination with standard conditions with in addition to adding 20’ waddle on the homeowner’s property extended from the pillar. CC 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to issue a -3 determination.

Public Hearing – RDA – Submitted by Todd Brouillette, 280 Kibbe Rd., map 17C lot 65, regarding the removal of 12 trees endangering property and neighboring property with the replacement of approx. 20 arborvitaes, all within the BZ of Otis Reservoir. With all the being said, Dave made a motion of a -3 determination with standard conditions with an addition the trees will be flush cut and replanting will occur in the general vicinity where the trees are taken down. CC 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to issue a -3 determination

Public Hearing – RDA – Submitted by John W. Field Tree Service, Inc., on behalf of Lawrence White, 16 Old Pease Rd., map 11 lot 21, regarding the removal of 4 trees, all within the BZ of Big Pond. With all the being said, Dave made a motion of a -3 determination with standard conditions with addition to flush cut or grind stumps. JL 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to issue a -3 determination.

Public Hearing – NOI – Submitted by Brett Stevens., on behalf of David Stevens, 22 Oak Ln., map 16B lot 13, regarding the removal of existing dock with the replacement of a new dock, all within the BZ of Otis Reservoir. With all the being said, Dave made a motion made a motion to grant the NOI. CC 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to grant the NOI.

ENFORCEMENT ORDER:

306 Kibbe Rd, Donald & Chet Galaska. In regards to work, that has done in the resource area without approval. Dave made a motion to ratify the enforcement order. After discussion amongst the Conservation Commission and homeowner, the conservation commission informed the homeowner that he needs to file an NOI before any more work takes place.

OTHER TOPICS:

0 Stebbins Road in regards to damn giving way - After a discussion amongst the property conservation commission and homeowner in regards to the damn giving way on 2 separate occasions, Dave made a Motion that the land owner request an emergency certification be filed with the conjunction of an NOI. The landowner is to hire a wetlands consultant that the conservation commission approves to survey the area for recommendations on long-term corrective measure for the damn as well as the alteration/restoration of the wetlands. The homeowner will pay the cost. The landowner is to cease and desist depositing fill and altering the area. The town can look into all and any costs associated due to the breach of the damn by the landowner. CC 2nd the motion and the Commission voted unanimously on the motion.

Dave made a motion to adjourn at 6:50, JL second the motion.