

**Whately Conservation Commission**  
**Wednesday, January 17, 2024**  
**Zoom Remote Public Meeting Minutes**

Commissioners present: Andrew Ostrowski, Ann Barker, Montserrat Archbald, George Owens, and Scott Jackson (chair)

Commissioners absent:

Others present: Paul Wetzel (Smith College)

Meeting convened at 7:05 p.m.

1. Continuation of Public Hearing for Smith College's Notice of Intent to remove invasive vegetation to create a diverse forested habitat on its property at 80 Poplar Hill Road. The hearing was reconvened at 7:05 pm. Commission Chair Jackson announced that the Commission had received a file number letter from MassDEP and a letter from the MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MDFW) addressing potential impacts to rare wetlands wildlife habitat. The MDFW letter included an assessment that the project, as proposed, would have no adverse impacts on rare wetlands wildlife. Chair Jackson summarized discussion from the previous meeting. Discussion and some Q&A followed. The Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions permitting the project with the following special conditions.

- Herbicide application within 15 feet of a wetland must be performed by an individual with knowledge and experience sufficient to accurately determine the wetland boundary.
- Efforts shall be taken to minimize the potential for herbicide drift into wetlands, including:
  - When practicable, herbicide application within 15 feet of a wetland should be performed using a cut and dab method rather than via spraying.
  - Herbicides shall only be applied when there is no likelihood of rain in the 48 hours following application.

2. The Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to accept the minutes from the December 20, 2023 meeting.

3. Updates and other business:

Chairman Jackson provided an update about the potential shared conservation agent position.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Jackson