

ConCom approved connector trail

Staff Report

WARE — The Conservation Commission met last Wednesday to review an application by the town, in partnership with the East Quabbin Land Trust, to construct a trail connecting the Mass Central Rail Trail to Grenville Park.

The 10-foot wide trail will pass through the Grenville Park extension acquired by the town last year.

Cynthia Henshaw of the EQLT and Andrea Kendall of LEC Environmental Consultants presented the proposed 1,500-foot long multipurpose trail to the commission. The trail will run near the Ware River and includes a short bridge over a small stream.

Kendall reviewed the trail location along with environmental buffer zones. She stated that the bridge will

be set above the stream with railings.

With funding assistance of EQLT, the town is conducting a botanical study to assure protection of Giant Rhododendrons in the project area. The commission approved the project as presented.

According to Henshaw, the connector trail is funded by a \$79,140 Mass Trails grant matched by a \$22,000 donation.

According to Town Manager Stuart Beckley, the project is to be completed by the end of June. Beckley is preparing a request for bids for the construction.

The commission also held a hearing with owners of property on Greenwich Plains Road. Pat Lord of GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. represented property owner Jeremiah Boulter who is looking to develop a single-family home on the

property. The land is located along Flat Brook.

Lord stated that there are wetlands and riverfront areas throughout the property that limit the location of the home. Conservation Agent John Prenosil noted that the development met the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act and had been reviewed by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Commission Chair Mark Swett raised concerns about mowing and maintenance of the property in the wetland area. Boulter agreed to limit the project to the site needed for the building of the home.

Markers will be placed along the wetland boundary so that future owners are aware of the limits.

The commission voted unanimously to approve the home project based on the condition to place the markers.