

Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC)
Remote Hybrid Public Hearing and Special Meeting
Minutes September 17, 2025

Members: Duncan Chapman, Melissa Fetterhoff, Christopher Lilly, William Marshall, Marty Poutry, Paul Routhier, Carl Sciple, Deborah Seeley

Members Absent: Robert Garnder, Jim Pinard, Debra Rivera

Staff: Neil Angus, Beth Suedmeyer, Dawn Babcock

Guests: Stephanie Koch (Wildlife Biologist of US Fish & Wildlife)

(7:39 AM) Chairman William Marshall called the meeting to order

Mr. Marshall read that the Devens Enterprise Commission (DEC) Meeting is being held virtually pursuant to the March 28, 2025, Act signed by the Governor extending the ability of state and local public meetings to be held in a hybrid or remote format through June 30, 2027. Interested individuals can listen in and participate by phone and/or on-line by following the link and phone # above. Persons with disabilities or requiring interpretation wishing to listen or participate should contact 978.772.8831 x3334. In accordance with the State's Open Meeting Law, we wish to inform all attendees that this meeting will be recorded by the Devens Enterprise Commission.

(7:42 AM) Mr. Marshall reviewed the agenda of this morning's special meeting.

New Business:

- **(7:44 AM)** Negative Wetland Determination of Applicability for Friends of Woodlands and Waters invasive species management Program along a portion of 50 Macpherson Road, Devens (parcel #035.0-0399-500.0) within the Open Space and Recreation District: Mr. Marshall read the public notice that was posted in the Lowell Sun. Mr. Angus clarified that this is not a formal public hearing but the Director has made a preliminary determination that the proposed invasive species management program does not require a Wetland Notice of Intent filing. This Negative Wetland Determination needs to be ratified by the Commission at a public meeting and through the wetlands protection act the public meeting does need to be publicly advertised. Mr. Angus noted that we have been working with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Friends of Woodlands and Waters, formally the Friends of the Oxbow. These two organizations have been working on invasive species along the Nashua River they are currently before us seeking a negative determination of applicability for invasive species along the Nashua River along the North Post. Mr. Angus then turned it over to Ms. Suedmeyer as she has been working closely with the two organizations on this project. Ms. Suedmeyer noted that this is a priority invasive management project for the region. They have received a grant from the Nashua Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council to do this work. This is consistent with the regional efforts underway. The practices that will be used are well tested. The licensed herbicide applicator that will be used is well versed in aquatic habitats. The treatment is a standard treatment for knotweed and in the future, we should be able to use other forms of treatment but currently with the area so thick it is difficult to access, so a foilier spray and a wiping of the leaves will be used, to minimize impact to non-targeted plants and the river. Mr. Angus has prepared a number of conditions that will help to reinforce the precautionary nature of the determination. Ms. Suedmeyer asked Stephanie Koch of USFWS if she had anything to add. Ms. Koch let everyone know that the contractor that they will be working with on this project has been working on the Sudbury River project and has been very successful, as well as very knowledgeable about invasive species. Mr. Angus noted that he has reviewed this and is prepared to issue a negative determination with the five conditions noted in the staff report to address the issues. The approval will be for three years and we will have them come back to use after the first year to give a report. There is no ground disturbance, which is a good thing. With some of the treatment being done via boats, they will need to ensure they have spill kits on board should there be any spilling of gasoline or herbicides. Mr. Angus just asked that the commission approve the ratification of his conditional negative determination as he doesn't see any issues of this project. Mr. Marshall asked if there were any questions. Mr. Lilly asked if any of this treatment would be

underwater and Ms. Suedmeyer stated that it would not be underwater. Mr. Marshall asked if this would be the only site treated and Ms. Suedmeyer noted that currently this would be the only site. Mr. Angus noted that the Town of Groton has conducted similar treatments just north of this location. Mr. Sciple commented that he is happy to see this being addressed as Harvard has had issues with invasive species for a while. **Mr. Marshall then asked for a motion to ratify the director's decision to issue a negative determination of applicability with the five conditions noted. The motion was made by Ms. Seeley and Seconded by Mr. Poutry. The motion to ratify the decision was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.**

(7:55 AM) Public Comment:

- Mr. Marshall asked if there were any questions/comments from the Public, none were asked.

(7:56 AM) Mr. Marshall noted the next scheduled meetings are **September 30th at 6:45 PM**, (Hybrid Meeting), and **October 9th at 7:30 AM**, (Zoom Meeting)

(7:57 AM) Mr. Marshall asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mr. Lilly and seconded by Mr. Routhier. The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

List of Exhibits

- Agenda
- Request for Determination of Applicability for Friends of Woodlands and Waters Invasive Management
- Staff Report