

The BEAT News!

"because an informed and engaged public is the environment's best defense"

October 20, 2021

Hi Friend ,

As part of BEAT's watchdogging effort, we try to keep an eye on development projects that could have a large environmental impact.

On Friday, Noah and I attended the site visit for the proposed changes at Camp Arrow Wood on Richmond Pond (via Lakeside Street) in Pittsfield. The proponents explained their plans for moving a lot of earth, "cutting and filling", the existing fields to make level playing fields. Although they talked about stormwater swales to capture and infiltrate the 100 year (1% chance) storm, they have not yet submitted those designs to the Pittsfield Conservation Commission.

We will keep an eye on this project to be sure any environmental impact is minimized.

Thank you to those who have been recycling batteries at the BEAT recycling station. **Do you have a bunch of pens lying around? We can reuse them! We are searching for and need blue pens (ballpoint, like Bic).** For batteries or pens, please contact us by phone or email to arrange a drop-off.

*Sincerely,
Jane*



Photo: Conservation Commission chair James Conant explaining the purpose of the site visit to look at issues under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

In The News

MassWildlife announces climate resilience grant opportunity:

Private and municipal landowners of conserved lands can apply for grant funding to support habitat management projects that increase resilience in vulnerable ecosystems.

To be eligible, habitat management activities must reduce stressors adversely affecting proposed project sites, thereby enhancing climate resilience. For example, projects in fire-adapted communities

that improve native species diversity, remove invasive species, and mitigate risk of extreme wildfire reduce climate vulnerability. Similarly, projects in coldwater stream riparian zones that maintain or enhance tree canopy coverage, control invasive species, reduce erosion, or other alterations to stream water quality or hydrology, may enhance climate resilience. [Read More](#)

Climate scientists should pay more attention to fish poop. Really.

Benji Jones | Vox

Fish and their feces play a hugely important and vastly underrated role in ocean chemistry and the carbon cycle that shapes Earth's climate, according to a [new study](#) led by Bianchi and published in the journal *Science Advances*. The story goes something like this: Tiny marine organisms called phytoplankton absorb carbon from the water and air around them. As the plankton are eaten by increasingly larger creatures, the carbon then travels up the food chain and into fish. Those fish then release a lot of it back into the ocean through their poop, much of which sinks to the seafloor and can store away carbon for centuries. The scientific term for carbon storage is sequestration. [Read More](#)

Gray, drab roadside retaining wall in Cheshire soon will be a work of art

Dick Lindsay | The Berkshire Eagle

Under the umbrella of the Cheshire Community Association, three women are leading the project that aims to grab the attention of motorists at the Route 8 rest stop across from Cheshire Lake, about a quarter-mile north of Whitney's Farm Market and Garden Center. Jill Reynolds — she is an artist and owner of [Cheshire Glassworks](#) — conceived of the artistic endeavor, titled "Wildlife Through the Season," featuring flora and fauna of the Berkshires in all four seasons. [Read More](#)

Here's Everything You Need to Know About Saving the Bees

Tiffany Duong | Eco Watch

According to an [EarthDay.Org report](#), there are more than 20,000 distinct bee species worldwide. In the U.S., there are native bees (more than 4,000 species) and commercially managed bees (mostly imported European honeybees). Both are vital for different reasons. The former are wild and keep our forests and meadow ecosystems functioning; the latter are managed by big agriculture to pollinate crops that feed the world. Unfortunately, most bees are in trouble. Colonies around the world are collapsing and many species are edging towards extinction. Their plight has been described as the death of a thousand cuts, and the causes range from widespread pesticide use to disease to climate change. So, what can we do? How can we save the bees? Here's everything you need to know. [Read More](#)

The fight against fossil fuels is here!

SUBSCRIBE HERE for the No Fracked Gas in Mass newsletter

More articles on climate and energy in the [Weekly News Check-In](#)

**Click Here for the
Community Calendar**

Wednesday, October 20

[Parks Canada on Corridors - Online](#)

Thursday, October 21

[A Conversation with State Senator Mike Barrett and Professor Nathan Phillips of Boston University - Online](#)

Friday, October 22

[HALF-EARTH DAY 2021: Hear from E.O. Wilson, Sir David Attenborough, Sir Tim Smit, Razan Al Mubarak, Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Johan Rockström - Online](#)

Sunday, October 24

[POP-UP Wild Edibles & Medicinals Workshop - Conway](#)

More Events Next Week! [See Calendar for more!](#)



[BEAT is Hiring: Water Quality Associate Position](#)

[Fellowship in Nature-based Early Education](#) | Boston Outdoor Preschool Network | Boston
[Plant Sale Coordinator](#) | Berkshire Conservation District | Hybrid Remote/Pittsfield
[Protected Species Observer \(PSO\)](#) | Smultea Environmental Sciences | Boston
[Ecological Horticulturist](#) | Norcross Wildlife Foundation | Wales
[Postdoc: Chronic Wasting Disease Risk Assessment](#) | UMASS | Amherst
[Deputy Director for Policy](#) | Massachusetts Rivers Alliance | Cambridge
[Urban Ecologist](#) | Mass Audubon | Lincoln
[Click here for more jobs](#)

Environmental Monitor

September 22, 2021

The Environmental Monitor provides information on projects under review by the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office, recent MEPA decisions of the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, and public notices from environmental agencies.

Berkshire Index:

- **Windsor** - [Windsor State Forest Dam Repairs & Nature-like Fishway](#) - ENF - Comments due 10/28/21
- **Windsor** - [Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project](#) - Eugene Moran Wildlife Management Area - posted 10/8/21
- **Egremont** - [Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certificate](#) - culvert replacement under Rts 23/41 and grouting of rip rap at Mill Pond Dam - posted 10/8/21
- **Pittsfield** - [NOI Ecological Restoration Aquatic Plant Management Pittsfield at Morewood Lake](#) - posted 10/8.21
- **Adams** - [Hoosic River Bank Stabilization and Erosion Control Project](#) -Notice of Project Change - comments due 10/12/21
- **New Marlborough** - [Harnett Pond](#) - ENF - comments due 10/22/21
- **Savoy** - [FHMS Broadband Antenna Array on Borden Mountain](#) - ENF Certificate - Does Not Require an Environmental Impact Report - issued 9/24/21

**We couldn't do our work without you.
Thank you for helping protect the environment!
~Support our programs & our future today~**

Public Notices

Public Notices listed here are from a variety of sources, from town conservation commissions and select boards to state and federal agencies. These listings are for Berkshire, Hampshire, Hampden,

and Franklin counties. Listings are only posted if they are environmental in nature. You can find all public notices for Massachusetts [here](#).

[BEAT Public Notices PAGE](#)



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