

Report of the
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

“Conservation means the wise use of the earth and its resources for the lasting good of men.”

— Gifford Pinchot

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

During the year ending December 31, 2014, the Marion Conservation Commission issued:

- 13 Orders of Conditions
- 29 Determinations of Applicability
 - 1 Extension to existing Orders
 - 3 Amendments to previously approved Orders
 - 9 Certificates of Compliance
 - 2 Enforcement Orders

These documents were written and approved at the 22 meetings held by the Commission during the year. Prior to each meeting, Commission members conducted more than 87 Saturday morning site inspections in support of the meeting agenda or for inspection of potential violations. The meetings and site visits represent approximately 350 hours of volunteer service.

Norman Hills assumed the Chairman position from Lawrence Dorman. Associate Member Wendy Carreau decided not to seek reappointment therefore an Associate Member position remains vacant at this time. The Commission's long time secretary, Diane Drake, retired at the end of June. Diane's knowledge and experience provided the oil that lubricated the smooth operation of the Conservation Commission resulting in accurate and timely responses to all the submittals from residents. After some delay, Donna Hemphill was selected as our new Administrative Assistant. She has been busy with on-the-job training as well as coordinating the move of the Conservation Commission to its new office space.

Again this year members of the Commission attended training sessions and conferences held by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) to expand their education of State requirements, professional knowledge, and administrative processes. The Commission continues to work with applicants to be sure that proposed projects adhere to the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA).

The Commission requested Town Meeting for additional funding for the continued treatment of invasive species at the Spragues Cove stormwater remediation project. This request generated considerable discussion and misinformation that resulted in the funding request being denied. Subsequently a suggestion to transfer responsibility for the maintenance of the Sprague's Cove stormwater remediation project to the Marion Open Space Acquisition Commission resulted in a meeting with the Board of Selectmen and residents to determine a course of action. After hearing presentations from both sides, the Board of Selectmen chose to retain control of

Sprague's Cove and initiate an engineering study to determine the best course of action to maintain the Sprague's Cove stormwater remediation project.

Late in the year, the Commission received a Request for Determination for the proposed CVS development. As of the end of December this item remains open waiting a check from the Applicant so that the Commission can engage an independent engineering firm to confirm the flood plan delineations on the subject property.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman A. Hills, Chairman
Joel D. Hartley, Vice Chairman
Jeffrey Doubrava, Treasurer
Stephen Gonsalves, Clerk
Lawrence Dorman, Member
Cynthia Trinidad, Associate