

**Report of the
MARION CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen,

Native Americans called the area we live in Sippican, or slow water, after the gently moving river which flows through Marion. They also had a story of a great storm which came and formed Sippican Harbor. For Native Americans, as well as the present day inhabitants, waters and wetlands form a critical part of the character, health, livelihood and life of Marion. The Marion Conservation Commission is in charge of protecting these wetlands which form a part in pollution prevention, inland and coastal flood control, public and private water supply, shellfish, and wildlife protection.

The last year of the 1900's was full of work for the Conservation Commission. More than 402 site inspections were held - almost twice the number of last year - an average of more than one for every day of the year! Twenty-five meetings were held in response to 43 Notices of Intent, 52 Requests for Determinations of Applicability, and 6 Amendments to Orders of Conditions.

More projects were approved in 1999 under Determinations of Applicability, rather than Orders of Conditions, when wetland impacts were unlikely. Scores of Certificates of Compliance and Extension Permits were issued. The Commission has tried to maintain a good relationship with the people of Marion while continuing to enforce the Wetlands Protection Act.

This has been the second year of rotating the Board Members of the Commission. Each Member will eventually become Chairman. We have worked well together as a Commission. Vice Chairman Robert Merlino (who is slated to become Chairman in June 2000), regularly contributes his environmental business experience to the Commission. Wayne Asker's real estate experience and fairness dealing with people enhance the Commission. Janice Mendes contributes a cheerful personality and prior experience as Chairman of the Conservation Commission. Sherman Briggs contributes his seemingly endless knowledge of Marion and practical construction experience. With the invaluable, knowledgeable help of our Secretary, Diane Drake, our permits are always issued in a timely manner. Special mention goes to Associate Members (and former Chairmen) Horace S. ("Hod") Kenney, Jr. and Frank J. Germano, Jr. for their work filling in as needed and giving needed perspective. Frank Cerkovitz and Jeffrey Oakes resigned as Associate Members in April. Jeff deserves special praise for his enthusiastic wetland boundary determinations and his engineering reviews of storm water retention and treatment areas. In addition, John Rockwell, although not a Member, provided valuable wetlands consulting to the Town and the Conservation Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joel D. Hartley, P.E., Chairman