

Report of the MARION CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Massachusetts was the first state in the nation to enact a wetlands protection law. This law was passed in 1963 and later, in 1972, the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act was passed. This law identifies eight public interests served by wetlands, and required that anyone wishing to undertake a project that may affect wetlands must first apply for, and obtain, a permit to do so to insure the public interests will be protected. The eight public interests that are protected under the Act are:

Public & private drinking water supplies	Groundwater supplies
Prevention of pollution	Flood control
Storm damage prevention	Fisheries
Land containing shellfish	Wildlife

While the Wetlands Protection Act is a state law, it is administered locally by each of the Commonwealth's 351 municipal conservation commissions.

The Commission consists of five members appointed to three-year terms by the Board of Selectmen. The current members have worked together for the past three years. Collectively the commissioners contribute their expertise, including a working knowledge of the wetlands regulations, an understanding of real estate issues, construction experience, and an appreciation for the character of Marion.

The Marion Conservation Commission meets at 7:00 PM on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the main conference room of the Town House. On two Saturdays of each month, the group visits the site of each project for which a permit application has been filed. During the year 2000 more than 196 site visits were made. Twenty-two meetings were held to review 43 Notices of Intent, 67 Requests for Determinations of Applicability, 11 Amendments to Orders of Conditions, 21 Extension Permits, 41 Certificates of Compliance, and two Emergency Certifications. Only one Enforcement Order was issued.

In addition to the regular members of the Commission, others contributing to the group's activities include: associate members Horace S. "Hod" Kenney, Jr. and Frank J. Germano, Jr. who fill in as needed to assure that we always have a quorum for our meetings; Harbormaster Charles Bradley and Shellfish Officer Kevin Snow who provide comments on navigational channels and shellfish populations, and who inform the Commission of questionable activities they observe along the waterfront; John Rockwell's technical support in the delineation of wetland boundaries, thanks to the Buzzards Bay Project; and finally our secretary, Diane Drake, who continues to manage the day-to-day activities of the office and assures that permits are prepared and issued accurately and on time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert J. Merlino, Chairman
G. Wayne Asker
Janice M. Mendes
Sherman E. Briggs, Jr.
Joel D. Hartley
Horace S. Kenney, Jr.
Frank J. Germano, Jr.