

REPORT OF THE  
MARION CONSERVATION COMMISSION

What would the world be once bereft of wet and wildness? Let them be left.  
Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-89)

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen,

It was another active year for the Conservation Commission. We have a new member, Jeffrey Oakes, who was appointed for a three year term on May 28, 2002. Jeff is a practicing civil engineer with a wealth of experience in wetlands issues, including expertise in delineating wetlands, a capability which is exercised on a regular basis.

In addition, on October 15, 2002 the Massachusetts legislature approved a home rule petition allowing the appointment of associate members with the right to vote. This provides the chairman with the authority to designate an associate member to sit on the Commission in the case of absence, inability to act or conflict of interest on the part of a regular member or in the event of a vacancy on the Commission until the vacancy is filled by the Selectmen. Hod Kenney and Frank Germano, both of whom previously served as regular members of the Conservation Commission, have been appointed associate members.

This year the Commission went on-line. The web address is <http://www.townofmarion.org/concom.html>. The site was designed by Commission member Joel Hartley and includes photographs from Marion's wetlands. The site has general information on our meeting schedule and an e-mail address for the Conservation Commission office. Links are provided to Marion's Wetlands Standards and the Massachusetts Wetlands Regulations. The commonly used wetlands forms may also be downloaded from this site.

During 2002 we held 22 meetings and conducted 112+ site visits in response to the filings of numerous Notices of Intent, Requests for Determinations of Applicability and requests for extensions of existing permits. We issued 28 Orders of Conditions, 40 Determinations of Applicability, 12 permit extensions, 24 Certificates of Compliance and 3 Enforcement Orders. These activities are delegated to the Conservation Commission in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

We continue to receive comments from the Harbormaster and Shellfish Officer regarding the effects of proposed projects on navigation and shellfish populations. Their assistance is appreciated. We are also grateful for the availability of technical support from the Buzzards Bay Project. The Commissioners would also like to express their appreciation to our secretary, Diane Drake, who keeps the office running smoothly and provides extensive background knowledge based on her many years of service.

Finally, we are mindful of the difficult economic situation the Town is facing. Accordingly, we have submitted a reduced budget for the coming fiscal year. We are able to do this as a result of the technical capabilities and regulatory knowledge of the members.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Merlino, Chairman  
Joel Hartley, Vice Chairman  
Janice Mendes, Treasurer  
Sherman Briggs, Recording Secretary  
Jeffrey Oakes  
Horace Kenney, Jr.  
Frank Germano, Jr.