

Report of the
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*"So bleak is the picture....that the bulldozer and not the atomic bomb
may turn out to be the most destructive invention of the 20th century."*

Philip Shabecott

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

During the year ending December 31, 2006, the Marion Conservation Commission issued:

- 21 Orders of Conditions
- 44 Determinations of Applicability
- 15 Extensions to existing Orders
- 3 Amendments to previously approved Orders
- 9 Certificates of Compliance
- 3 Enforcement Orders

These documents were written and approved at the 21 meetings held by the Commission during the year. Prior to the meetings, Commission members conducted more than 132 Saturday morning group site inspections in support of the meeting agenda. We continue to pursue the Department of Environmental Protection's assistance to produce a response to certain Enforcement Orders.

Norman Hills was elected as Chairman of the Commission. Jan Mendes declined reappointment to the Commission, bringing to a close many years of voluntary support. Jan was replaced by a new member, Bruce Hebbel. Joel Hartley rotated back to an Associate Member with the appointment of Larry Dorman as the final permanent member of the Commission. Again this year several members of the Commission attended training sessions and conferences held by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions to expand their education of State requirements, professional knowledge, and administrative processes.

The importance of clear identification of Wetlands Protection Act protected resource areas continues to increase. It can severely impact the footprint that an owner has to work with. In one situation this year, the Conservation Commission's evaluation of the Bordering Vegetated Wetland line resulted in a denial of the proposed project. The decision was appealed to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Commission's decision was upheld. The location of a wetland line is now a critical item in the determination of the usefulness of particular lots.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman A. Hills, Chairman
Jeffrey W. Oakes
Sherman E. Briggs, Jr.
Bruce C. Hebbel
Lawrence B. Dorman
Horace S. Kenney, Jr., Associate
Joel D. Hartley, Associate