

Report of the
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.”

— Theodore Roosevelt

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

During the year ending December 31, 2012, the Marion Conservation Commission issued:

- 21 Orders of Conditions
- 28 Determinations of Applicability
- 5 Extensions to existing Orders
- 2 Amendments to previously approved Orders
- 16 Certificates of Compliance
- 0 Enforcement Orders

These documents were written and approved at the 21 meetings held by the Commission during the year. Although there were no Enforcement Orders issued this year, the Commission did write several letters to residents identifying possible violations and issues that needed to be corrected or for filings that were necessary. Commission Members conducted more than 93 Saturday morning site inspections prior to the meetings, in support of the meeting agendas or for inspection of potential violations. The meetings and site visits represents approximately 420 hours of volunteer service.

Sherman Briggs was re-elected Chairman. Commission membership had two changes this year - Member Wendy Carreau changed to an Associate Member, filling a vacancy that has existed for over a year, and Stephen Gonsalves was appointed a Member in her place. The Commission members continue to be indebted to their Secretary, Diane Drake, for her support and experience. Again this year several 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), an example this year being activity in Washburn Park intended to rejuvenate overgrown picnic areas. Working with the Harbormaster, the Commission approved a plan to use the Silvershell Beach area for a regatta next summer instead of the Town Landing at Island Wharf.

Projects submitted to the Commission continue to be complex and in some cases controversial. The Commission issued an Order of Conditions approving the Bay Watch Realty Trust 40B project in February. The Commission coordinated long overdue maintenance work at Spragues Cove to remove invasive species and reverse general degradation of the engineered stormwater retention system. The Town is indebted to the Friends of Silvershell for the financial support they provided. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's changes to the local

Flood Insurance Rate Maps were finalized in July 2012. Subsequently some errors were discovered that affect several maps on the east side of the harbor that are being corrected. These digitized maps contain changes to Flood Zones and Base Flood Elevations. In an unexpected move, the 2012 Massachusetts Economic Development Act extended the expiration dates of certain Orders and Determinations under the WPA. The result is that if an Order or Determination was in effect at any time during the period of August 15, 2008 through August 15, 2012, then the expiration date is automatically extended for an additional four years. Any questions with respect to Orders and Determinations in effect during this period should be addressed to the Conservation Commission office.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherman E. Briggs, Jr., Chairman
Lawrence B. Dorman, Vice Chairman
Norman A. Hills, Secretary/Treasurer
Joel D. Hartley
Stephen C. Gonsalves
Jeffrey W. Oakes, Associate
Wendy L. Carreau, Associate



Photo by Alice Briggs