

MATTAPOISETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2016 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission is staffed by volunteer board members Chairman Robert Rogers, Mike King, Chapman Dickerson, Trevor Francis, and Mike Dubuc. Additionally the Commission has two part-time staff members: Conservation Agent Elizabeth Leidhold and Secretary Teresa Austin.



Mattapoisett wetlands are comprised of the wooded swamps of the Mattapoisett River Valley that filter and protect the water that we drink from our faucets, and the salt marshes that keep Mattapoisett Harbor, Brandt Island and Aucoot Coves clean for our fish, shellfish and most importantly our families. Additionally, our wetland resource areas provide services to the community such as the beaches that buffer our homes from storms and the streams, and the brooks and flood zones which absorb rain and prevent flooding. Mattapoisett's wetlands are an important part of what makes Mattapoisett special.

In 1972 the Conservation Commission was given responsibility for administering the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131 section 40). The Conservation Commission is charged with implementing the Act through the Wetland Protection Regulations (MGL Chapter 131, section 40).

The Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act defines a wetland resource area as "...any bank, riverfront area, fresh water wetland, coastal wetland, beach, dune, flat, marsh, (wet) meadow or swamp bordering on the ocean or on any estuary, creek, river, stream, pond or lake, or any land under said waters or any land subject to tidal action, coastal storm flowage or flooding...."

The Conservation Commission continues to be a very busy department with a total of 21 meetings held in 2016. Public hearings included 30 new Notices of Intent applications, 1 Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation, 42 Requests for Determination of Applicability, and 15 Certificate of Compliances. Additionally the Commission acted on 15 requests for an Extension of Orders, and 2 Amended Order of Conditions

Several large projects were approved through the Commission in 2016, including a solar facility on Crystal Spring Road, and municipal road improvement projects on Cannon, Pearl, and Barstow Streets. Additionally the Mattapoisett Water Department received a permit for three new municipal wells at pump station for work at well station #2. Several single family house projects were approved in both the Brandt Point Village and Bay Club subdivisions, and the permitting process for the shared-use pathway began in 2016. Many coastal projects including seawall repairs, and dock and pier projects were approved, as well as septic system repairs and single family home improvements.

The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission is located on the second floor of the Town Hall, across from the Building Department.