

MATTAPOISETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2015 ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission is staffed by volunteer board members Chairman Robert Rogers, Tom Copps, Peter Newton, Michael King and Mary Lou Kelliher. Additionally the Commission has two part-time staff members: Conservation Agent Elizabeth Leidhold and Secretary Teresa Austin.

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....."

In 2015 the Conservation Commission held a total of 23 hearings. Public hearings included 17- Notices of Intent applications, 1 Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation, 1 Abbreviated Notice of Intent, 12 Requests to Amended Orders, 46 Requests for Determination of Applicability, 6 Request for Extensions, and 32 Certificate of Compliances. Additionally the Commission acted on 2 enforcement orders, and 1 emergency certification.

The majority of applications were for single family homes and associated improvements and septic repairs; however a number of municipal projects and business-related projects were approved by the Commission as well. Some of these projects included the review and approval of the Acushnet Road culvert replacement project, various roadway repairs and drainage improvements, and the replacement of a culvert at Mattapoisett Housing Authority's Village Court. In addition there were several enlargements of businesses in the Industrial Park, and several meetings regarding the proposed bike path. The Commission staff continued monitoring of the Tinkham Hill Solar facility, the Cell Tower on Marion Road, and the review and permitting of the new Blue Wave Crystal Spring Solar facility. In addition a number of new and repairs to piers for home owners, and continued monitoring of development in Bay Club and Brandt Point Village Subdivision as well as other ongoing projects around town.

The Commission proposed a wetland bylaw at Town Meeting. Unfortunately this did not pass.

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