

Warwick Conservation Commission

Members & Term: Originally 6 members appointed for 3 years each, with one third appointed annually (MGL CH. 40, sec 8C and adopted under Article 27, Annual Town Meeting March 6, 1973). Currently 7 members.

Responsibilities: The commission is responsible for the protection of the Town's natural resources through planning and advising. The commission carries out the administration and enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act. The commission shall conduct researches into its local land areas and shall seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print, and distribute books, maps, charts, plans, and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its work (MGL Ch. 40, sec 8C).¹

Annual Report

July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008

Members:

Conservation Commission	(Selectboard Appointees)	2
Cheryl Matthews, 865 Wendell Road		6/30/09
Kathleen "Kasey" Rolih, 260 Brush Valley Road, <i>elected vice-chair 12/08</i>		6/30/09
Donald Walter, 409 Gale Road		6/30/09
Albert Alden, 28 Revere Hill Road		6/30/10
Karro Frost, 125 Hastings Pond Road, <i>chair</i>		6/30/10
Alan Berman, 200 Brush Valley Road, <i>vice-chair</i>		6/30/11
Mary Williamson, 31 Bass Road, <i>secretary</i>		6/30/11

Major business that came before the Conservation Commission:

We received three Notices of Intent (including one submitted by the Department of Conservation and Recreation for the repair of the Laurel Lake Dam) and seven requests for Determination of Applicability (including one for beach nourishment at Laurel Lake and one for upgrading the 40-year-old power line to the radio tower at the top of Mt. Grace). We issued one Extension of an Order of Conditions and one Certificate of Compliance.

The Conservation Commission approved the placing of two additional geo-caches along the Hockanum Hill Trail. Conservation Commission members visited the 8.6-acre Bowers/Bezio parcel off Quarry Road, observing both the blackgum trees and vernal pool, and voted unanimously to support the Town's acquiring the parcel for conservation purposes with funding from private donations.

¹ The first instance of block quotes from the town by-laws will be footnoted as follows: Block quotes following titles, unless otherwise noted, are from Town Clerk Jeannette Fellows' April, 2005, edition of the town by-laws entitled *Town of Warwick: Local Government Handbook*.

² All appointments confirmed at the July 14, 2008, Selectboard meeting.

The Science Club at the Warwick Elementary School certified a vernal pool at the cranberry bog near the School (Vernal Pool #4433).

In October the Conservation Commission organized a Beaver Workshop at the Town Hall. Board members from other towns were invited to attend. Trina Moruzzi, a State Wildlife Biologist, was the speaker.

In December we held the annual election of officers and prepared a level-funded budget For FY 2009.

Thanks to help from Kasey Rolih and Ed Lemon, we have also set up a web page on the Town of Warwick website, www.warwickma.org.

In March Con Com members attended the public meeting held in Warwick in connection with the Heritage Landscape Inventory Program.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary S. Williamson

Secretary