

ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Natural Resources Commission

A. Membership

Five members appointed by the Town Manager with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to staggered three-year terms. The Commission elects a chairman and clerk.

B. Duties and Responsibilities

The Commission is responsible for the overall stewardship of the natural resources of the Town as assigned, and the establishment of Town environmental policy in conjunction with the Board of Selectmen and Town Meeting. The terms "natural resources" as used herein includes but is not limited to, the town-owned lakes, ponds, streams, parks, conservation land, forests, watersheds, farmland, etc. which are not specifically committed elsewhere to some other town jurisdiction; insect and plant disease control; public shade and ornamental trees and shrubs; conservation land use; forest management; and general environmental issues including groundwater, flood control and farmland preservation; the prevention of air and water pollution, etc.

1. Act as the Conservation Commission and Town Forest Committee in all matters delegated to those bodies by the General Laws or Bylaw of the Town.
2. Establish policies and procedures for the management and use of property under its controls; approval of all expenditures from the Conservation Fund; and establish fees for the operation, management and use of land and water under its control.
3. Develop and revise the Open Space Plan; provide recommendations on the purchase of interests in environmentally sensitive lands or waters; and receive gifts bequests or properties for the town with the approval of the Board of Selectmen.
4. Provide policy guidance and adopt regulations governing natural resources programs and activities.
5. Provide policy guidance and make recommendations to the Director on improving the organization and operational effectiveness of the department.

6. Assist the Town Manager in the appointment of the Director, and assist the Director in the appointment of the Natural Resources Coordinator.
7. Review and approve the annual budget and capital improvement program for the conservation fund and land acquisition as submitted by the Director and submit them to the Town Manager.
8. Recommend to the Director cooperative arrangements with other towns and which private persons or bodies for the provision and operation of town facilities and programs, and serve as the town's liaison with other governmental units and private bodies in matters relating to the Commission's responsibilities.
9. Advise the Board of Appeals; Planning Board; and other Town boards on matters within the Commission's responsibility.
10. Assist the Director in special studies relating to natural resources.
11. Submit an annual report for incorporation in the Annual Report.
12. With approval of the Town Manager, appoint special advisory committees to the Commission.