

2014 REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Dunstable Conservation Commission meetings are generally scheduled on the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Town Hall, starting at 7:30pm. Interested residents are welcome to attend.

The Dunstable Conservation Commission serves the community as a state mandated regulatory agency while also promoting the conservation and sustainable use of Dunstable's natural resources. The Conservation Commission Act (Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8C) of 1957 designates the Conservation Commission as the official agency charged with the protection of the community's natural resources. In 1972, Conservation Commissions were given the added responsibility for administering the Wetlands Protection Act (MA G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40). In addition to its responsibility under the state statute, the Commission has similar responsibilities as set forth in the Dunstable General Wetlands Bylaw.

Under the Wetlands Protection Act and the Town Bylaw, Commission files show the following actions were taken in the calendar year 2014:

Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area	
Delineation (ANRAD) hearings/continuations	0
Notices of Intent hearings/continuations	1
Requests for Determination/continuations	7
Wetland Bylaw Hearing	0
Site Visits	18
Certificates of Compliance	9
Building Permits	9
Occupancy Permits	1
Demolition Permits	0
Enforcement Orders	2

Judy Larter continued to serve as the Commission's representative on the Dunstable Community Preservation Committee. Bill Moeller agreed to serve as a member of the Stormwater Committee.

The Conservation Commission held a "cut your own Christmas tree" sale December 6th and 13th at the Flat Rock Hill (Mill St.) and Amos Kendall (High St.) conservation properties. The Commission raised \$990. Funds must be spent for conservation purposes.

Thru an appropriation made at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting, the Conservation Commission demolished an old structure at Unkety Woods Preserve. We then worked with a forester to selectively cut timber on the site. Monies from the cut will be used for Conservation purposes.

Members voted to support two projects: a Conservation Restriction (CR) on 53.72 acres

of land on Main Street and an Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) on 41 acres on Hollis Street

For information about the Conservation Commission, please go to the town website at www.dunstable-ma.gov

Useful Information

One sometimes hears that Dunstable is "closed to hunting". This is not the case. Dunstable does have a "discharge of firearms" bylaw. One must have the written permission of the landowner in order to discharge a firearm. As a matter of practice, neither the Town, nor the Dunstable Rural Land Trust grants such permission for land they control. Bow hunting and fishing are permitted unless the property is posted. State property (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife) is governed by separate rules; check their website at <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/>

Questions sometimes arise with regard to the operation of snow vehicles and recreation vehicles. Residents may wish to refer to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90B, Section 26, paragraph (e): "No person shall operate a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle on privately-owned property unless the operator has in his possession a document, signed by the owner authorizing operation of such vehicle." "No person shall operate a snow vehicle or recreation vehicle on publicly-owned property except on trails marked and designated for use by such vehicles, or without the express permission of the owner."

Respectfully,
Leah Basbanes, Chair
Juan Amodei
Alan Chaney
Jeff Haight
Judy Larter
Bill Moeller
Marilyn Pike
Cheryl Mann, Secretary