

2021 REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Dunstable Conservation Commission generally meets on the second and fourth Monday of each month, starting at 6:30pm. Members are meeting remotely. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission has continued to function and serve the public's needs. Meetings are open to the public. Please check the town website for meeting information: www.dunstable-ma.gov

The Conservation Commission serves the community as a state mandated regulatory agency, which enforces MGL Ch. 131 Section 40 (The Wetland Protection Act) while also promoting the conservation and sustainable use of Dunstable's natural resources. 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, the following actions were taken in the calendar year 2021:

Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area	
Delineation (ANRAD) hearings/continuations	2
Notices of Intent hearings/continuations	5
Requests for Determination/continuations	0
Certificates of Compliance	2
Building Permits	3
Occupancy Permits	4
Site Visits	24
Demolition Permits	0
Enforcement Orders/Violations	0

Alan Starbird remains the Commission's representative on the Community Preservation Committee.

At the May Annual Town Meeting, residents voted to support the purchase of the 1.27-acre Drew Landing property on Main Street. This important parcel borders Salmon Brook and has off street parking. In late 2021, the Conservation Commission and Community Preservation Committee approved funds for a feasibility study in hopes of applying for a MassTrails Grant. This grant would be for design, engineering and permitting of a handicap accessible boardwalk from Drew Landing to Emery Woods.

The Commission voted to extend All Habitat's Order of Condition to control invasive species on Massapoag Pond.

During 2021, we mowed the Stone Arch Bridge field.

The Conservation Commission would like to thank the scout that completed (under the direction of Dave Kimpton) the clearing of some of the shoreline at Woodward's Mill Pond.

Thank you to the 4th graders who under the direction of Physical Education teacher Nicole Pelletier completed a wooden bridge behind the Swallow Union Elementary School. This bridge, located on the Bacon Conservation area, crosses Black Brook.

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

Useful Information

Please note that dogs must be kept leashed at all times on Conservation Commission properties.

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, the Conservation Commission does not grant such permission for land they control. Bow hunting and fishing are permitted unless the property is posted. State properties (Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife) are governed by separate rules; please check their website at <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/>

Questions sometimes arise with regard to the operation of motorized vehicles on Conservation property. 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,

Alan Chaney - Chairman

Leah Basbanes – Vice Chair

Juan Amodei

Al Starbird

Kate DeLoureiro

Marijan Andacic

Tiffany Naughton

Cheryl Mann-Administrative Assistant