

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Abington:

The Conservation Commission submits its Annual Report as follows. The Commission is a volunteer board appointed by the Board of Selectmen, consisting of seven voting members and several associate members, mandated under M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, and Abington Town By-Laws, Chapter 171, for the purposes of administration and implementation of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

Our meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month and are open to the public. In the year 2008, the Conservation Commission received twenty Notices of Intent, four Requests for Determination, issued nineteen Certificates of Compliance, amended one Order of Condition, one extension and held many informal meetings. The filing of a Notice of Intent or a Request for Determination often requires several continuations before a hearing is closed, as well as a site walk. This year, there were several large projects that required more than the usual number of continuations and site walks. The Commission turned in \$8,925.50 received in filing fees.

The Board is involved in the actual visiting of the sites where work will be done in the buffer zone or the wetlands area. The Board also responds to wetlands violations reported by citizens, which involved many site walks and frequent communications with the Department of Environmental Protection this year. The Commission has initiated having wetlands markers installed on certain properties under the Order of Conditions that is issued to a project upon the completion of a Notice of Intent hearing, indicating the lot is under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act.

This year, the Commission lost one of its most well-respected, long-time members with the death of Frank Mackiewicz. Frank served on the Board for over 40 years and was an invaluable asset with his background, vast knowledge of the Town of Abington and years of experience. He will be greatly missed.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Bezanson, Chairman
James Connolly, Vice Chair
John Curley, Associate Member
Nathan Elliott
Chris Kane
Frank Mackiewicz, Associate Member (dec.)
Michael Marquardt, Associate Member
Hal Norton
Christine Yardley
Richard Yardley