

Report of the  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*"The potential for adverse impacts to resource areas from work in the buffer zone increases with the extent of the work and the proximity to the resource area."*

- *Preface to the 2005 Revision to the Wetlands Protection Act*

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

During the year ending December 31, 2008, the Marion Conservation Commission issued:

- 18 Orders of Conditions
- 23 Determinations of Applicability
- 15 Extensions to existing Orders
  - 3 Amendments to previously approved Orders
- 34 Certificates of Compliance
- 3 Enforcement Orders

The numbers for the first two categories are down this year, possibly reflecting the general state of the economy. The numbers for Certificates of Compliance are significantly up this year in response to reminder letters sent to holders of expired Orders of Conditions. These documents were written and approved at the 24 meetings held by the Commission during the year. Prior to each meeting, Commission members conducted more than 122 Saturday morning site inspections in support of the meeting agenda or for inspection of potential violations. This effort represents approximately 480 hours of volunteer service.

Commission membership was stable. Again this year several members of the Commission attended training sessions and conferences held by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions to expand their education of State requirements, professional knowledge, and administrative processes. The Commission continues to attempt to work with proposed projects, providing requirements and comments that can result in changes acceptable to the Wetlands Protection Act at some compromise to the initial proposal.

It should be noted that the Federal Emergency Management Agency circulated draft changes to the local Flood Insurance Maps in June. These digitized maps contain changes to Flood Zones and Base Flood Elevations that, in conjunction with a new requirement that the lowest elevation of a structure be two feet above the Base Flood Elevation, will impact future building plans.

Respectfully submitted,

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