

Easton, New Hampshire Conservation Commission Guidelines

Adopted June 1, 2012

Purpose and Authority

1. The purpose of the Conservation Commission is to protect its watershed resources, to promote ecologically sound use of its natural resources and to promote the protection and conservation of undeveloped land within the town of Easton.
2. The Commission was created by and will function in accordance with the provisions of New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 36-A, "Conservation Commission".

Membership

1. The Easton Conservation Commission shall consist of not less than 3 nor more than 7 members plus alternate members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen as provided by the RSAs.
2. The appointed term for full time Commission members and all alternates is three-years.
3. Terms of office commence on April 1st and end on March 31st three years subsequent, provided however that the term shall continue until successors are appointed.
4. A vacancy occurring by other than term expiration shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as an original appointment.
5. The secretary shall forward, to the municipal clerk for recording, each Commission members' term appointment and expiration dates.

Officers

1. The Commission Officers and their duties are:
 - a. **Chairperson:** The Chairperson shall preside over all meetings and hearings and is responsible for posting meeting notices, preparing an annual report, and performing other duties customary to the office.
 - b. **Vice-Chairman:** The Vice-Chairperson shall assume the duties of the Chairperson during the Chairperson's absence
 - c. **Secretary:** The Secretary (or designated Town employee) is responsible for the maintenance of the Commission minutes and records, and shall forward copies of these to the Town Clerk.
2. Officers are elected annually by a majority vote of the Commission at the April meeting immediately following the Town Meeting

Initiatives within the Scope of the Purpose of the Commission

1. Conduct research into Easton land and water areas.
2. Index all space and natural aesthetic or ecological areas in Easton including but not limited to marshlands, swamps and other wetlands.
3. Prepare reports and maps for local designation of prime wetlands, and habitat for wildlife.
4. Intervene, investigate, and make recommendations on Dredge and Fill permit files with the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES).
5. Advise the Planning Board and other local bodies on conservation matters.
6. Seek to coordinate the activities of groups involved with the protection of natural or watershed resources.
7. Conduct informational programs for the general public to increase awareness of conservation and preservation issues and opportunities, and educate people about the history of Easton and its natural resources.
8. Review and make recommendations in accordance with RSA 15

Committees

1. The Chairman may appoint subcommittees for any purpose deemed necessary.
2. Subcommittee shall make regular reports to the Commission

Meetings

1. All meetings, including non-public session, shall be held in accordance with RSA 91-A.
2. A schedule of regular meetings shall be posted at the Town Offices, on the Commission's website, and in the Easton Annual Report.
3. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairperson or by the request of three Commission members. Public notice and notice to each member shall be given at least 25 hours prior to such meeting, excluding Sundays and legal holidays. The notice shall specify the meeting's purpose.
4. A motion duly seconded shall be carried by an affirmative oral or hand vote of a majority of the members present.
5. Disqualification and Recusal: Conflict of interest laws, as commonly understood, shall apply to Commission members. When there may be the perception of a conflict of interest, affected members shall recuse themselves from discussions and decisions on the issue. The member (s) shall not sit at the table with the other members, but may sit in the audience and speak to the subject.

Joint Meetings and Hearings

1. The Commission may hold joint meetings and hearings with other "land use boards". Each Board shall have discretion whether or not to hold such joint meeting or hearing (RSA 676:2). Each Board involved in a joint public hearing shall make its own decision based on its criteria for the particular matter.

Amendments

1. These Guidelines may be amended by a majority vote of the Commission members provided that such an amendment is read at the meeting immediately preceding the meeting at which the vote is to be taken and filed with the Municipal (Town) Clerk.

Validity

If any portion of these Guidelines shall be held to be invalid for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not invalidate in any manner any other provision contained herein.

Adopted by a majority vote of the Easton Conservation Commission, as indicated by the following signatures.

Maria Hynes, Chairman (2013)

Date

Denys Draper, Vice Chairman (2013)

Date

Kris Pastoriza (2013)

Date

Wren Miller-Weed, Alternate (2013)

Date

Mike Platt (2014)

Date

Ned Cutler (2014)

Date

Anita Craven (2015)

Date

Steve Sabre (2015)

Date

Debbie Stever, Alternate (2015)

Date

Roy Stever, Alternate (2015)

Date

