

Report of the  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

*"The most unhappy thing about conservation is that it is never permanent.  
Save a priceless woodland or an irreplaceable mountain today, and  
tomorrow it is threatened from another quarter."*

**Hal Borland**, *New York Times Book Review*

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

During the year ending December 31, 2007, the Marion Conservation Commission issued:

25 Orders of Conditions  
45 Determinations of Applicability  
15 Extensions to existing Orders  
3 Amendments to previously approved Orders  
18 Certificates of Compliance  
3 Enforcement Orders

These documents were written and approved at the 23 meetings held by the Commission during the year. Prior to the meetings, Commission members conducted more than 145 Saturday morning site inspections in support of the meeting agendas. This effort represents approximately 460 hours of volunteer time. We continued to pursue Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (D.E.P.) assistance to produce a response to certain Enforcement Orders, without much success. This and other enforcement considerations tend to strengthen the consideration for local conservation bylaws.

Commission membership was stable this year. 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.

As noted last year, the push to develop marginal lots continues. The expansion of the sewer line service has contributed added pressure. 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 (W.P.A.) at some compromise to the initial proposal. Four contentious projects have resulted in appeals to the Department of Environmental Protection and/or other legal action by interested parties. In most cases, the D.E.P. has ruled in support of our decisions with respect to W.P.A. requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

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