

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

William Fateiger, Chairman.....	2007
Karen Augustine.....	2007
Scott Duhaime	2008
Sarah Greenough.....	2008
Amy Wilson	2008
Edward Englemann.....	2009
Lori Stephenson.....	2009
Carol Gumbart, Conservation Administrator	

Membership: There was no change in membership during the year. The Commission is grateful to all the non-member volunteers that assist the Commission with their work, especially with land management tasks including: the de facto Bolton Trails Committee, Eagle Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H Club, the Bolton Conservation Trust and many others.

Key responsibilities of the Bolton Conservation Commission include the administration of the State's Wetland Protection Act and the Rivers Protection Act, as well as the local the Bolton Wetlands Bylaw. The administration of these acts and bylaws occupy the bulk of the Commission's time and resources. The Conservation Commission Act charges the Commission with the responsibility to protect the town's natural resources including "the promotion and development of natural resources and the protection of watershed resources." To achieve this protection the Commission routinely reviews and makes recommendations on projects submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen. Additionally, the Commission protects land by accepting gifts of land, conservation restrictions and acquisition of land in fee. The Conservation Commission Act places the care and custody of conservation land with the Commission.

Administration: The Conservation Commission consists of volunteer residents. The Board of Selectmen appoints the 7 voting members to the Commission. The Commission typically meets the first and third Tuesday of the month at the Town Hall. All meetings are open to the public. Formal meetings and public hearings are held to review specific projects involving impacts to wetlands, water resources and wildlife habitat within the town. Public hearings are advertised in the Bolton Common. During 2006, the Commission held 23 public meetings to reviewed new applications including: 16 Notice of Intents; 2 Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation. 2 Orders of Conditions were amended to include activities that either minimized impacts to the resource or were unanticipated at the time of the issuance of the Order; 0 Water Resource Protection District Special Permit Applications; and 17 Requests for Determinations of Applicability. The Commission made site visits for each application and held numerous informational meetings with citizens, town boards, and developers. In addition, the Commission held 5 additional meetings to work specifically on the drafting

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regulations for the Wetlands Bylaw. The Commission maintains a web page on the Town of Bolton website at www.townofbolton.com where agendas, minutes, trail maps and the Open Space and Recreation Plan can be found.

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Wetland Protection: In the administration of the State Wetlands and River Protection Acts and the local bylaws, the Commission serves the town in a regulatory as well as a conservation capacity. Under these laws, the Commission is charged with the review and control of activities in or near the town's fragile and valuable wetlands, water resources, wildlife habitat areas, and to prevent any adverse impact on those resources. Through a public review and decision-making process, the Commission regulates the work done in these areas to ensure the protection of public and private water supply, the protection of the groundwater supply, flood control, storm damage prevention, the prevention of pollution, and the protection of fisheries and wildlife habitat. Additionally, the Commission is charged with the responsibility of confirming wetland delineations for all protected wetland resource areas. The local wetland bylaw provides additional protection of wetlands for water quality and rare species habitat including rare plant species. The interests of the bylaw extend to agriculture, aquaculture and recreation deemed important to the community.

A large portion of the Commission's work during the first half of 2006 was devoted to revising the Wetlands Bylaw. The changes were approved at Town Meeting and later accepted by the Attorney General's office. During the later half of the year the Commission spent considerable time drafting regulations for the Bylaw. It is anticipated that they will be complete early in the next year. In addition the Commission reviewed plans for development including new house lot construction, improvements to existing dwellings, and construction activities to repair or replace failed septic systems. The Commission reviewed and approved several municipal applications ranging from road paving overlays, to bridges and boardwalks, sidewalks and the proposed wastewater treatment facility. The wastewater treatment facility is still in the public hearing process and the hearing is expected to close shortly.

The Conservation Administrator performed numerous routine site inspections at the "Regency" development located at the former Crystal Springs Campground, once the project got underway. This year the Commission had several complaints brought to them related to the keeping of horses near wetlands and adjacent upland resource areas. The Commission looks forward to working with the agricultural community to resolve these issues and educate each other.

Open Space Preservation: The Commission accepted an acre plus gift from the Wheeler family. The gift was a dedication to the late Russell B. Wheeler for his love of the natural world.

The Commission continues to work with the Bolton Conservation Trust (BCT) and the public at large to protect strategic parcels as outlined in the Open Space

and Recreation Plan. To support this effort, we fully endorse that the Town of Bolton approve the Community Preservation Act, and we are actively working with the BCT, Planning Board, Affordable Housing Partnership, Parks and Recreation, and the Historical Commission in bringing this to a vote in 2007. Existing maps can be downloaded from the Town of Bolton's website at www.townofbolton.com.

Deleted: town boards and committee's to bring the Community Preservation Act to the town in the next year.

**Financial Statement
July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006**

Wages

Appropriated		\$32,564.00
Expended		<u>\$29,563.46</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund		\$ 3,000.54

Expenses

Appropriated			\$24,800.00
Expended	Land Maintenance	\$6,814.82	
	Training	80.00	
	Vernal Pool Study	367.14	
	Advertising	104.81	
	Supplies	239.49	
	In-State Travel	80.93	
	Dues/Membership	310.00	
	Misc	198.32	
	Land Improvements	4,578.56	
	Equipment	47.15	
			<u>\$12,821.22</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund			\$ 6,978.78

Conservation Fund

Appropriated		\$
5,000.00		
Expended		<u>0.00</u>
Unexpended balance returned to general fund		5,000.00

Additional expenses paid by State Wetland Filing Fees:

Training	\$ 85.00	
Supplies	\$ 98.98	
Travel/Mileage	<u>\$174.63</u>	\$ 358.61

