

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

- 1971** An Open Space Coordinating Committee study failed to quiet public dissatisfaction with open space management in Wellesley.
- 1976** A three-year Open Space Management Committee study found that:
- 1) Wellesley's land management problems stemmed from control of land by boards whose priorities lie in areas other than open space
  - 2) A Conservation Commission appointed by the Board of Selectmen was unable to exercise its statutory authority freely
  - 3) The Park & Tree Board, Town Forest Committee, and Tree Warden were not effective under the Board of Public Works.
- 1977** Town Meeting decided to consolidate open space management in an *elected* Natural Resources Commission bearing the statutory authority and responsibility of Park Commissions, Conservation Commissions, Tree Wardens, Town Forest Committees, and Forestry and Pest Control Officers under Massachusetts law.
- 1978** Special legislation authorizing the establishment of the Natural Resources Commission was passed by the Massachusetts legislature. Town Meeting passed the Natural Resources Commission Bylaw, Article 43.
- 1979** The right of Town Meeting to establish a Natural Resources Commission was affirmed by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. Members of the first Natural Resources Commission were elected.