

## **ARTICLE 43. NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

43.1. Natural Resources. For the purposes of this article "natural resources" includes without limitation lakes, ponds, streams, parks, athletic and playing fields, conservation lands, reservations, forests, watersheds, wetlands, wildlife, plantings, and shade and ornamental trees and shrubs, and other outstanding natural features.

43.2. Membership. The Town shall have an elected Natural Resources Commission (for purposes of this Article 43, the "Commission"), consisting of five residents.

43.3. Term. The term of office shall be three years.

43.4. General Duties. The Commission shall:

- a. Have overall authority and responsibility with respect to:
  - i. The use, acquisition, management, preservation, and protection of conservation land,
  - ii. The use, management, preservation, and protection of park land and such other land as may be transferred to, or acquired by, the Commission,
  - iii. Forest and tree nursery management,
  - iv. Insect pest and moth control, and
  - v. Administration of the Conservation Fund under G.L. c. 40, §§ 5(51) and 8C.
- b. Study and make recommendations regarding the use, maintenance, management, preservation, and protection of the natural resources of the Town which are under the jurisdiction of other Boards.
- c. Establish general policies to be implemented by the Department of Public Works, as provided in Section 29.3.d. for the carrying out of maintenance, tasks and work affecting natural resources, as authorized by Section 43.4.a.
- d. Propose for acquisition by the Town those natural resources that the Commission deems useful or important to the Town.
- e. Carry out such other responsibilities as the Town may assign to it or as may be permitted or required by law.

43.5. Statutory Powers and Duties. The Commission shall have all the powers and duties of conservation commissions, forest committees, park commissioners, tree wardens, moth superintendents, and superintendents of insect pest control under the General Laws, particularly under G.L. c. 40, § 8C, and G.L. c. 45, 87 and 132.

43.6. Director of Natural Resources. The Commission shall appoint a Director of Natural Resources who shall hold office at the will of the Commission and can be removed only with the consent of at least three members of the Commission. The Commission may delegate to the Director such duties as they deem appropriate. The delegation of major responsibilities shall be in writing. The Commission shall appoint such staff as it deems necessary.

43.7. Wetlands Protection Committee. The Commission shall appoint a Wetlands Protection Committee consisting of five residents, and may appoint up to two residents as associate members to consider and vote upon applications under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act in the case of absence, inability to act, or conflict of interest on the part of any member or in the event of a vacancy on the Board. The term of office shall be three years commencing on July 1. The Commission shall delegate to the Wetlands Protection Committee the power and authority to administer and enforce the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. c. 131, § 40.

43.8. Landscape Advisory Committee. The Commission shall appoint a Landscape Advisory Committee consisting of three residents. The term of office shall be three years commencing on July 1. The Landscape Advisory Committee shall assist, advise and submit plans and recommendations to the Commission for preserving, improving and enhancing Town-owned natural resources and the beauty of the Town.

43.9. Long-Range Planning Committee. The Commission shall appoint a Long-Range Planning Committee consisting of five residents. The term of office shall be three years commencing on July 1. The Long-Range

Planning Committee shall assist, advise and submit plans and recommendations to the Commission pertaining to the long-range use, acquisition, maintenance, protection and development of open space in, and natural resources of, the Town.

43.10. Plans. The Commission shall take into consideration all Town and regional plans affecting the natural resources of the Town.

43.11 General Provisions. The Commission shall also be governed by Articles 2 through 7 of these bylaws and other provisions of these bylaws applicable generally to all Boards, except as it is specifically directed by law or a provision of these bylaws to act otherwise.