

Town of Winchendon

Department of Planning and Development

109 Front Street, Dept. 10
Winchendon, MA 01475

978.297.3537
www.townofwinchendon.com



June 25, 2020

You have received this letter as our records indicate that you own one (or more) parcels near Lake Monomonac or Whites Mill Pond here in Winchendon. This is a beautiful asset to the Town and we are fortunate to have it within our community.

In recent months we have noticed a sharp increase in folks doing work near the Lake and in folks raising concerns about work being done near the Lake. In some instances the homeowners have indicated that they didn't know there are regulations. You are receiving this letter to ensure that everyone knows about the regulations that protect our wetlands and how projects are reviewed in compliance with the regulations.

There is more information below, but any project planned within 100' of the edge of a wetland or lake requires review and approval of the Conservation Commission. Work begun without permission will likely be stopped by issuance of an Enforcement Order and fines of up to \$300 per day may be levied by the Conservation Commission. There are no provisions that allow for verbal approval from a volunteer or employee.


There are Federal, State and Town of Winchendon regulations that protect wetlands of various types. The Federal regulations tend to apply to larger commercial projects. The State of Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Chapter 131, Section 40) references the MA Department of Environmental Protection Regulations (Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) 310). The Town Conservation Commission is in charge of administering the State Regulations and also enforces the local Town Wetlands Bylaws (Article 29), which in some cases are more restrictive than the State Regulations.

The local Conservation Commission is a five member board appointed by the Board of Selectmen for three year rolling terms. They meet on a monthly basis to review applications that come in from property owners looking to make changes. Review and approval may be accomplished in a single meeting of the Commission or it may take many months and require multiple revisions.

A link to both the State and Local regulations can be found on the Town's website under the Conservation Commission tab along with the various MA DEP application forms. The Town Conservation Agent, Alison Manugian, is available to help applicants and provides support to the Conservation Commission. The Agent will help you determine which application form is the right one, help determine state and local fees and walk you through the process from application through final decisions.

The town is committed to protecting all wetland resources within Winchendon for their natural beauty, the environmental benefit and the unique habitat that they provide but we cannot do it without your help.

Thank you,


Tracy Murphy
Director of Planning & Development

Alison Manugian
Conservation Agent
amanugian@townofwinchendon.com
978-297-5410