



**Rochester Conservation Commission &
Town Forest Committee**

Town Hall Annex, 37 Marion Road, Rochester MA 02770
Phone: 508-763-5421 Fax: 508-763-5379

2016 Annual Report

Members & Purpose

Rochester has a long history of preserving important ecological, agricultural, cultural and water supply related lands for future generations. The Town of Rochester established the Conservation Commission & Town Forest Committee ("Commission") in 1963 under the Conservation Commission Act.

The Commission is responsible for protecting Rochester's natural resources, managing the Town Forest and conservation lands, administering the Massachusetts and Town Wetland Protection statutes, and advising other municipal officials and boards on conservation and environmental matters.

The Commission meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Rochester Town Hall Conference Room. The Rochester Conservation Commission office is located at the Town Hall Annex at 37 Marion Road; office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office can be reached by calling 508-763-5421 extension 206. The Commission holds public meetings on the first and third Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Rochester Town Hall Conference Room.

Commission Staff

The Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent and Board Administrator work under the direction of the Conservation Commission and provide support, coordination, and professional management for the Conservation Commission in carrying out its mission to protect Rochester's natural resources. Commission staff assists landowners, developers, applicants, engineers and the general public to provide due diligence information and professional advice on the Wetlands Protection Act and Rochester Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Commission staff assists the Commission in planning, acquisition, administration and management of municipal conservation land conservation restrictions.

2016 Conservation Commission Accomplishments

- Applied for and received a \$25,000 Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program grant to permanently protect the 18-acre David property – Lower River Bend Land Preservation Project off Mattapoisett Road
- Applied for and received a \$35,000 Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program grant to permanently protect the 164-acre Roy Hawkes property – Branch Brook Land Preservation Project off Wolf Island Road
- Applied for and received Makepeace Neighborhood Fund Application for \$10,000 of in kind materials/services for Dexter Lane Recreational Area paved path

- Co-ordinated update of MapGeo Browser and Rochester's GIS parcel layer for use by the Commission, all Town departments and boards, SRPEDD, and state agencies.
- Applied for and received a Mass GIS grant for Standardized GIS Mapping to update the town parcel layer to meet Level 3 Compliance and Update Zoning Map
- Updated digital version of Explore Rochester trail guide and coordinated second printing of Explore Rochester Trail Guide. The Commission wishes to acknowledge and thank the Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School for their technical support and printing, and the Makepeace Neighborhood Fund for funding the project.
- Worked with the Rochester Water Commission in the adoption of the Surface Water Protection Bylaw
- Commission Members and Staff attended the Annual MACC Environmental Conference held on March 5, 2016
- Continued work on updating Rochester's 2008 Open Space & Recreation Plan (Rochester's sixth since 1977) to provide a landscape guide into the future. The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires municipalities to update their plans every seven years to remain eligible for state and federal money sources.

2016 Wetland Protection Act and Rochester Wetlands By-law Filings

The Conservation Commission held 22 meetings in the year 2016. The following is a summary of the applications received and formal actions by the Commission in 2016:

<u>Permits/Actions</u>	
Building Permit Interdepartmental Review	81
Board of Health Percolation Review	38
Notice of Intent Applications	8
RDA Applications	21
Abbreviated Notice of Resource	1
Area Delineation (ANRAD)	1
Amended Order of Conditions	1
Certificates of Compliance	8
Emergency Certifications	1
Enforcement Orders	1

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Conway, Chairperson

Dr. John Teal, Vice-Chairman

Kevin Cassidy

Dan Gagne

Laurene Gerrior

Chris Post

Rosemary T. Smith

Maggie Payne, Associate Member

Margaret Gonneville, Board Administrator

Laurell J. Farinon, Conservation Agent