

Town of Pepperell Goals and Objectives Form

March, 2010

Department: Conservation Commission

Introduction: The Conservation Department's mandate is to protect Pepperell's natural resources. The department consists of a 7-member volunteer Conservation Commission and one part-time administrator, each with training and expertise in pertinent fields. We are the local administrators of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Pepperell Wetlands Protection By-Law. We plan for and manage the Town's Conservation Land. We work with and advise other Town bodies such as the Planning Board, ZBA, and the Building Inspector's Office on natural resources issues, and we provide information to Town residents. The following specific tasks under the goals and objectives are in addition to on-going routine work.

GOAL: (One sentence)

The Conservation Department will assist Pepperell citizens in complying with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act (WPA) and the Pepperell Wetlands Protection By-Law

OBJECTIVE: (One to three sentences)

The Conservation Department will maintain easily accessible, up-to-date information about the WPA regulations and procedures, general information about the protection of wetland resources, and public records of past wetlands permitting in Pepperell. This information will be available to the public via the Town website, email, phone calls, visits to the office, and press releases, as appropriate.

Tasks or Activities (List two-three pertinent projects, with time lines).

Staff and Commissioners will complete a review and update of the material covering the WPA and the Pepperell Wetlands Protection by-Law on the Conservation page of the Town website by June 30, 2010.

Staff will complete the logging of GIS-ready metadata for all past Orders of Conditions by August 31, 2010.

Staff and/or Commissioners will attend at least 3 training sessions or educational meetings about new WPA regulations or procedures or other natural resource-related topics by December 31, 2010

OBJECTIVE: (One to three sentences)

The Conservation Department will complete work related to the WPA and the Pepperell Wetlands Protection By-Law in a timely manner. This includes building permit application reviews, reviews of wetlands permit applications, erosion control inspections, and investigation of complaints. Issuance of permits (Orders or Determinations) will be done as quickly as possible after they have been approved

Tasks or Activities (List two-three pertinent projects, with time lines).

Staff and Commissioners will draft and adopt a policy for reasonable completion of the tasks listed above. The policy will be posted by May 31, 2010.

Staff will keep records of how long each review, issuance, or investigation has taken. Each year the percentage of these tasks that have complied with the policy timeline will be noted in the Annual Report, next compiled by January 10, 2011

GOAL: (One sentence)

In connection with its management of Town-owned Conservation Land, the Conservation Department will work to preserve the Town's water supply and other sensitive natural resources and to provide passive recreational opportunities that are consistent with natural resource protection

OBJECTIVE: (One to three sentences)

The Conservation Department will actively manage existing Conservation Land

Tasks or Activities (List two-three pertinent projects, with time lines).

Staff and Commissioners will continue to implement the 2008 Management Plan for the Heald Street Orchard. Invasive species control will be done by July 31, 2010. Mowing will be done by September 30, 2010.

Staff and Commissioners will update the Management Plan for the Bemis Rd. Conservation Land parcels by February 28, 2011.

OBJECTIVE: (One to three sentences)

The Conservation Department will plan for future land protection efforts.

Tasks or Activities (List two-three pertinent projects, with time lines).

Staff and Commissioners will work with the Selectmen to adopt a procedure for the assignment of the Town's Chapter 61 Right of First Refusal by July 31, 2010.

Staff and Commissioners will update the Open Space Map, including the priority parcels for protection, by December 31, 2010.