



HULL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Quarterly Report: APRIL 1, 2017 – JUNE 30, 2017

The Hull Conservation Commission hereby submits our Quarterly Report for the period ending June 30, 2017. The Commission is composed of local volunteers occupying up to seven available positions that are appointed to 3-year terms by the Board of Selectmen.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings vary in length, but normally last 2-3 hours. Prior to each meeting, the Commission conducts a site visit for each permit requested. The Commission addressed the following permit requests and issues during this quarter:

8 Notices of Intent

9 Requests for Determination

3 Wetlands Violation Notices

11 Requests for Certificates of Compliance

3 Amendments of Orders of Conditions

1 Emergency Certification

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

In addition to formal permitting, the Commission offers comment on town projects and works informally with citizens to advise on projects and resolve potential violations.

Over the past few years, Nantasket Beach has been the temporary residence of multiple pairs of Piping Plovers, which are a threatened species. The Town contracted with MA Audubon to manage the monitoring. To date, we have four pairs with chicks and one scraping pair (not yet nested). This year, a pair of Least Terns (threatened species) was spotted on Nantasket Beach. MA Audubon confirmed that it was not a nesting pair and will continue to monitor for potential nesting pairs each year.

Funding was not received for the Conservation Department's request of \$48,000 for State 604(B) funds, to improve water quality in Hull Bay. Only 5 of the 17 proposals submitted to DEP received funding.

The Conservation Department completed and submitted a proposal to the CZM's Coastal Pollution Remediation program for \$42.5K in funds with a 26% in kind match to mitigate flooding at the high school using a green infrastructure design (e.g., to mitigate stormwater runoff). Award notification is expected by mid-July.

Also, the Conservation Department has worked with DPW to add a sand layer to the permitted town opens from O Street to W Street. This work is done under a valid WPA permit as prescribed by the Beach Management Plan.

The Conservation Department coordinates our community's involvement in FEMA's Community Rating System which encourages sound flood plain development and improves resiliency to storm surge and flood damages. Part of this effort involves updating the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan which is currently underway and being coordinated through a contract with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and the Conservation Dept.

Upcoming Initiatives

The Conservation Department will continue to work with the DPW to enforce a policy issued by the Selectmen to fill unpermitted dune openings along Beach Avenue. This policy is in place in order to ensure a continual stabilized primary dune, which protects the Town from coastal flooding and provides coastal storm protection.

The Conservation Department along with assistance from the MA Audubon Society will be reviewing the Beach Management Plan and provide training to the Town's DPW and Law Enforcement personnel. A training session is planned for town personnel in early July.

The CRS program is due for its annual 5-year review on Oct 2, 2017. Currently, the Town of Hull receives a 10% discount on flood insurance premiums because of protective measures recognized by FEMA. The Conservation Department continues to ensure our CRS rating of 8 and exploring measures to improve our rating in the CRS Program.

The Commission will continue to volunteer their time to serve the citizens of Hull by protecting the environment of the town through regulation, education, and environmental planning.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Bannen

Sheila Connor, Chair

Paul Epstein

Elizabeth Fish

Louis Sorgi

Paul Paquin