



HULL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

253 Atlantic Avenue

Hull, MA 02045

Phone: (781) 925-8102

Fax: (781) 925-8509

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Quarterly Report: October 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

The Hull Conservation Commission hereby submits our Quarterly Report for the period ending December 31, 2018. 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. There are currently two vacant positions.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Meetings vary in length, but typically 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:

18 Notices of Intent

5 Requests for Determination

1 Wetlands Violation Notices

4 Requests for Certificates of Compliance

2 Amendments of Orders of Conditions

0 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.

The Town began discussions with MA Audubon for continued management of Piping Plovers monitoring on Nantasket Beach for the 2019 Season.

Conservation Department hired Kleinfelder and Woods Hole Group to assist in CZM's Coastal Resiliency grant awarded to the Town to examine nature-based solutions for community resilience on North Nantasket Beach. This grant will explore near-term dune rehabilitation designs and large-scale beach and dune nourishment planning through a stakeholder engagement process. A contract was developed and instituted between the Town and Kleinfelder and subcontractors. A kickoff meeting with the Steering Committee consisting of representatives from Town Planning, Conservation, Building Dept, Town Management, Beach Management Committee and CZM occurred 11/29/18. Grant work has begun between the Town and Contractors.

The Commission approved a WPA permit to repair and prepare the primary dunes along the Town-portion of Nantasket Beach. The Conservation Department coordinated review and input to the Notice of Intent with Mass Fish and Wildlife to ensure best protection of Nantasket Beach plover habitat. DPW has begun to fill the voids in the primary dune in December and will continue to complete the scope of work for this year's repair and will be completed early in the next quarter (Jan 2019).

The Commission also approved a WPA permit to reduce the long-standing problem channeling of stormwater overwash from previous coastal storms along Nantasket Ave near the Hull Lifesaving Museum. Several public input hearings were held to inform and provide neighborhood residents the opportunity to help design the approach to alleviate channelized flooding in the area. DPW work on this project will begin early in the next quarter (Jan. 2019).

The Commission has developed a guidance document for residents in the use of sandbags to mitigate local flooding. A draft guidance document has been prepared and circulated for review to relevant Town Departments and mailing and posting of this guidance will be conducted early next quarter.

The Conservation Department has worked with Mass GIS to update the Assessor's parcel data to meet the new standardized criteria (known as "Level 3"). The Town's updated land parcel data was completed during this quarter and is available as a GIS data layer from:

<http://massgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=4d99822d17b9457bb32d7f953ca08416>



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The Conservation Department continues to coordinate 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. This year, the Department was able to achieve a level 7 rating for the Town which translates to an additional 5% savings on premiums for residents with flood insurance on top of the 10% the Town enjoyed from the previous year.

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. In addition, the Department is working with DPW on a variety of projects, including improving storm drainage along Beach Avenue through improved protection from sedimentation, culvert repair along Access Rd, and localized flooding at the High School, storm water channeling along upper Nantasket Avenue and along Stoney Beach Rd.

The Conservation Department has developed a "Home Elevation Grant Program (HEGP)" to solicit applications for home elevation by residents who wish to seek funding for these endeavors under the FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program. The HEGP notice has been developed for review and Town selection criteria are currently under development. The Town is expected to roll out this program early next quarter.

A cobble relocation pilot permit was issued for the upper portion of Nantasket Beach (between T and V Sts) as a means to evaluate the effectiveness of cobble relocation and sand replacement in reducing the potential for cobble projectiles to adjacent homes. This project was completed in November and a Certificate of Compliance is expected for consideration early in the next quarter.

The Commission continues to volunteer their time to serve the citizens of Hull by protecting the natural resources of the town through regulation, education, and environmental planning.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Paquin, Chair

Sean Bannen; Paul Epstein; Chris Oliveri; Louis Sorgi