

Report of the

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Joshua Cohen, Chairman
Kevin Colmey, Vice-Chairman
Robert MacDonald, Treasurer
Paul Degnan, Clerk
Elizabeth Sugameli, Member
Melissa Mayer, Member
Gerald Carmichael, Member

Pequitside Farm
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Regen M. Milani, Conservation Agent
Heather Cahill, Office & Recording Secretary

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, Friday 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM

The Conservation Commission administers the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act, the Town of Canton Wetland Protection Bylaw and Regulations, the Town of Canton Stormwater Bylaw and Regulations, and the Town of Canton Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Bylaw. The Conservation Commission works directly with developers, town departments, and residents regarding both new and redevelopment projects, including new subdivisions, construction of new single-family homes, building additions, landscaping, and more to help ensure an understanding of the requirements for compliance with these state and local laws. In addition the commission owns and manages over 70 parcels, consisting of over 400 acres of land, set aside for public conservation and passive recreation purposes, including Pequitside Farm.

The Commission holds public hearings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month at Pequitside Farm in the Tavern Room located at the rear of the Edward J. Lynch, Jr. House. Public Hearings begin at 7:00 P.M. All hearings are open to the public and recorded by Canton Community Television. Copies of current regulations and forms are available on the Conservation Department website town.canton.ma.us/335/Conservation-Commission or at the Conservation Office (781) 821-5035.

Conservation welcomes our new Conservation Agent Regen Milani, Regen started November 19th and the Commission is looking forward to working with her. Our sincerest thanks to Kristen Phelps and Charles Katuska who acted as interim agents during the search process for a new agent. Their knowledge and assistance was invaluable and sincerely appreciated.

In 2018 there were 19 Public meetings issuing a total of 59 permits and 33 Certificates of Compliance which consisted of the following: 33 Wetland Permits made up of 8 Determinations of Applicability and 25 Orders of Conditions; 1 Amended Order of Conditions; 7 Stormwater Permits, 11 Stormwater 3-year Extensions; 19 Soil Erosion/Land Disturbance Permits; 13 Soil Erosion/Land Disturbance 3-year Extensions; 12 Wetland Certificates of Compliances; 8 Stormwater Certificates of Compliances; and 13 Soil Erosion/Land Disturbance Certificates of Compliances, and 3 Violations.

Members of the Conservation Commission also serve on the Pequitside Sub-Committee, the Community Preservation Committee, the Permit Advisory Committee, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, the Paul Revere Heritage Commission, the Walk, Bike and Hike Committee, the Water and Sewer Rate and Policy Committee, Reservoir Pond Advisory Committee, and Pequitside Task Force.

The Pequitside Sub-Committee oversees projects and improvements to the Pequitside Properties - Pequitside Farm, including the Edward J. Lynch Jr. House, and Pequitside Woods. The Sub-committee meetings are held on the third Monday of every month on an as needed basis at 9:30 A.M. on the second floor of the Edward J. Lynch Jr. House. Pequitside Sub-Committee meeting dates are posted on the Town of Canton website and at the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall. All are welcome to attend.

The Town of Canton is rich in natural resources which provide protection for public water supplies, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty. The most important natural resources have been identified as the Neponset River and its tributary streams, ponds, and associated wetlands; the large Fowl Meadow and Ponkapoag Pond Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and the remaining undeveloped areas of natural vegetation in town. Currently, public access to many of Canton ponds is difficult or limited. It is important to the town to continue to protect and enhance the quality of surface and ground waters, flood protection and wetland resources as well as improve wildlife habitat and provide recreational amenities. Despite the increasing fragmentation of the Town's natural areas, the existence of large areas of undeveloped land gives Canton the opportunity to plan now to create open space linkages.

It is the Commissions' sincerest wish that all Canton residents be allowed to enjoy their own property and the public lands throughout the town. It is also role to help citizens understand the great value that our natural resources provide, and the shared responsibility that we have as a community to protect our natural heritage for ourselves and for the many generations to follow. When using public lands for recreation, thank you for abiding by the rules and regulations that have been established for the protection of the land and the people who use it.

We would like to thank Steve Choiniere, Canton Facilities and Grounds Supervisor, Ed Butler, Kevin Brophy, Rob Martin, and Peter Ferry, Building and Grounds Technicians, and the Canton Board of Selectman, without whose assistance we would not be able maintain and repair our buildings and grounds. We would like to thank our 2018 senior program volunteers Pauline Wademan and Carol Cycelia for their excellent work in helping us scan and organize our files- a tedious but critical task. In addition, we would like to thank our secretary, Heather Cahill, for her support of the Commission and work to maintain the Commission Office, manage the building and grounds rentals, and supervise our senior volunteers.

Best wishes to all Canton residents.

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Cohen

Joshua Cohen, Chairman

M. Regen Milani

Regen Milani, Agent