

## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Commission**

**Who is the Wellfleet Conservation Commission?** The Commission is a board of 7 volunteers who are citizens of the Town of Wellfleet and who are appointed by the Board of Selectmen for a three year term.

The Commission's primary responsibility is to administer both local and state wetlands protection statutes (the Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch 131, s. 40 and the Wellfleet Wetlands Protection Bylaw. This means that the Commission reviews proposed projects to be undertaken in areas of its jurisdiction. The Commission's objective is to permit projects while protecting the natural resources and the public interests they provide.

The Commission is also responsible for overseeing several town-owned conservation lands.

**What areas are protected by the Wetland Regulations?** Both freshwater and coastal wetlands are protected. In addition to the obvious wetlands such as marshes, ponds, bogs, etc., other areas considered wetland resource areas include coastal banks, inland banks and land subject to coastal storm flowage (the 100-year flood plain). Additionally, the upland within 100ft of *any* of these resource areas and the land within 200ft of a river or perennial stream are protected.

**What type of activity requires a permit from the Chatham Conservation Commission?** Generally, any activity that would constitute altering, removing, filling, dredging, or building upon an area under the jurisdiction of the Commission as described above requires Conservation Commission approval. An application is to be filed with the Commission prior to undertaking the activity. For small projects, an "Administrative Review" may be all that is needed. Any questions about whether a proposed activity requires Commission review should be directed to the Conservation office. Please note that alteration includes the cutting of trees and/or vegetation.

**Is there a local wetlands protection bylaw and where can I get a copy?** A copy of Wellfleet's Wetlands Protection Bylaw and the Regulations may be downloaded at no charge from this website on the Conservation Commissions webpage.

**How often does the Commission meet?** The Commission holds public hearings twice a month on the first and third Wednesdays to review applications. Meetings start at 5pm, usually at the Hall basement, 300 Main Street.