



What is the Sharon Conservation Commission?

The Sharon Conservation Commission is a town board charged with serving the interests of the Massachusetts State Wetlands and River Protection Acts. Every city and town in Massachusetts has a Conservation Commission to issue permits for projects proposed in and near wetland and riverfront areas so long as they are in compliance with the state regulations. The Conservation Commission is made up of seven volunteers that are appointed by the Sharon Select Board for three year terms.

When do I need to consult the Conservation Commission?

Anyone who plans to build, grade, clear, apply herbicides or do any “alteration” within 100 feet of a wetland resource area or within 200 feet of a

perennial brook, stream or river must contact the Conservation Commission before doing so. Additionally, please be prepared to file a conservation permit application for any proposed work which may result in negatively impacting one or more of the eight interests of the Wetlands Protection Act:

1. Public & Private water supply protection;
2. Protection of groundwater supply;
3. Flood Control;
4. Storm damage prevention;
5. Prevention of pollution;
6. Protection of land containing shellfish;
7. Protection of fisheries; and,
8. Protection of wildlife habitat.

How do I know if there are wetland resource areas near my property?

The Town of Sharon provides an interactive GIS Database [LINK](#) to the general public which provides an estimated location of the following wetland resource areas and associated buffer zones:

- a. Wetlands
- b. Streams
- c. National Flood Hazard Layer

If you intend on filing a permit with the Conservation Department, it is recommended the landowner/applicant hire a certified wetland scientist or biologist or an engineer/surveyor who is familiar with mapping the different types

of state and locally jurisdictional wetland resource areas.

When DO I need to obtain a Conservation Permit?

Depending on the amount of wetland resource areas on your property and their proximity to your proposed work — typically you will file one of three types of applications for a permit.

Applications are available online at the Massachusetts DEP website - [Wetlands Permitting Forms | Mass.gov](#) – additional procedures and information is available at our website: [Conservation Commission | Town of Sharon MA](#).

It is recommended (and for certain applications - required) that you work with a professional engineer, land survey-or, or wetland scientist to determine the location of wetlands and file a properly executed application.

Once received, the Conservation Department reviews your application for completion and will advise you of the date and time of the public hearing. Members of the Commission and/or their Agent will visit your property prior to the hearing to verify the location of the wetlands and review the proposed work area.



What is a Conservation Permit?

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

This application is appropriate for anyone wanting to know if they must file a more comprehensive application with the Commission, or for those who are certain that all of their proposed site work is 100 feet from any wetland resource area. There is small fee associated with the RDA application with the exception of a legal notice payment. Plans may be hand-drawn by the property owner depicting the approximated locations of wetlands and locations of proposed work.

NOTICE OF INTENT

The NOI application is required whenever proposed work is within 100 feet of a wetland resource area or within 200 feet of a perennial brook, stream or river, or in 100 Yr. Flood plain. NOI applications require detailed site plans prepared by a certified professional engineer or land surveyor depicting wetland boundaries as flagged on the property and all proposed work. There are state and municipal filing fees associated with the NOI that increase with the scope of work (WPA Form 3).

ABBREVIATED NOTICE OF RESOURCE AREA DELINEATION

The ANRAD application is a request to the Commission to approve the location of wetland boundaries as flagged on the property and drawn on a site plan - it does not address site work. This application is appropriate for property owners wishing to certify the location of wetland resource areas on their property. Filing fees are required and calculated by the linear amount of wetland flagging.

What is a Wetland Resource Area?

Bordering Vegetated Wetland: BVW is the most predominant type of wetland in Sharon, and is typically a wetland which borders on a nearby stream.

Isolated Vegetated Wetland: IVW are wetlands which are isolated from larger wetland systems where surface or groundwater pools.

Riverfront: A perennial stream or river including its 200-foot-wide corridor.

Bordering Land Subject to Flooding: Areas depicted on FEMA flood maps as 100-year flood zones.

Land under Water Bodies: Just like it sounds - Areas below ponds, lakes, etc.

Please contact the Sharon Conservation Department with any questions or concerns.

John Thomas, Conservation Administrator

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Town of Sharon Conservation Commission

General Information

Commissioners

Peg Arguimbau, Chair

Meredith Avery, Vice-Chair

Colin Barbera

Stephen Cremer

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Alan Westman