**What to Do If You Have Questions or**

**Don’t Like a Decision Made By the Conservation Commission:**

(March, 2019)

Several years back, we included a series of educational articles explaining what the Conservation Commission did, and why – which we are working on adding to the town website.  One article that we didn’t get to was on what to do if you have questions or don’t like a decision that was made by the Commission.

The Commission tries to meet on a monthly basis, mostly on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30, though occasionally the meeting needs to be changed to a different day. This is always posted, and you’re welcome to contact one of the Commissioners to confirm the date and time of the meeting.  Our meetings are also posted on the town website, as are the agendas.  These are public meetings, so you’re welcome to attend whether you have business with the Commission or if you just want to sit in and listen.  Most often we meetin one of the meeting rooms at the Town Hall.

Most of the business that is done by the Commission is in response to the filing of either a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) or a Notice of Intent (NOI).  Following the public meeting or public hearing that isrequired for each application, the Commission responds by issuing a Determination of Applicability or an Order of Conditions.

If a Determination of Applicability is issued in response to an RDA, or an Order of Conditions is issued in response to an NOI and you are aggrieved by it, you have the right to appeal it to the Department of Environmental Protection.  They will review the application and determine whether the decision was appropriate.

The only time one Commissioner can act on his or her own is in issuing an Enforcement Order if there is a violation of the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA); or an Emergency Permit if there is a situation that creates imminent danger to the safety and welfare of humans or a wetland. The Enforcement Order or Emergency Permit requires discussion at the next meeting, and ratification (signing by a majority of the Commission).  So if an Enforcement Order has been issued to you and you do not agree with it, you have a right to attend the next meeting and speak to the Commission. They will determine whether the Order was appropriate or not.  If they determine that it was appropriate and ratify it, but you still don’t think it is appropriate, you have the right to appeal it to Superior Court.

Members of the Commission are appointed by the Select Board for three year terms.  At the present time there is one vacancy. The Commission consists of Ramon Sanchez, Virginia Gabert, Prue Berry, Bob Clancy. If you’re interested in learning more, please contact one of the Commissioners or let the Select Board know that you’re interested in serving.  We encourage Commissioners to attend regular training seminars and we welcome more help and input from any reasonable source.