

Conservation Commission

Legislative Reference:

State: CGS 7-131a.

Town: previously in 1987 Charter Sec 6.4.1; Code Sec 15.5-38 (Tree Ordinance #228)

Other Bylaws and/or Rules of Procedure:

Type: Statutory and permanent.

Geographic Responsibility: Town but not City nor Groton Long Point (City has own Conservation Commission).

History: First appeared in Charter adopted November 8, 1966; established by Town Council resolution November 6, 1967 pursuant to the Charter.

Powers and Duties:

General: The development, conservation, supervision and regulation of natural resources, including water, air and open space land resources. It shall undertake the duties of liaison within the Town and between the town, state and the federal government in matters of environmental quality and control. It shall have such other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Town Council. (1987 Charter 6.4.1.)

Specific: The Commission shall conduct research into the utilization and possible utilization of land areas and may coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes. It may advertise, prepare and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets as necessary. It may inventory natural resources and formulate watershed management and drought management plans.

The Commission shall keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned. It may recommend to the planning commission plans and programs for the development and use of such areas. It may make recommendations to zoning, planning, inland wetlands and other town agencies on proposed land use changes.

The Commission may, with the approval of the Town Council, acquire land and easements in the name of the town and promulgate rules and regulations, including charges for the use of the land and easements. It may supervise and manage town-owned open space or park property upon delegation by the entity which has responsibility for such property.

The Commission shall make an annual report to the town as required of other agencies of the town. It may receive gifts in the name of the town and shall administer the same subject to the terms of the gift. (CGS 7-131a)

Also acts as the (see also) **Tree Advisory Board** (Code 15.5-38).

Appointing Authority: Town Manager (1987 Charter 6.4.1.)

Term of Office: Four (4) years, staggered (1987 Charter 6.4.1.)

Membership:

Number: Seven (7) members (1987 Charter 6.4.1.)

Requirements: Resident electors of the Town (1987 Charter 6.4.1.)

Meeting Schedule and Location: Monthly at the Town Hall Annex.

Staff: Office of Planning and Development Services (OPDS).

Records: Located in the Office of Planning and Development Services.
Agendas and minutes also filed in the Town Clerk's office.

Further information:

OPDS /Planning: 446-5970.