

Winthrop Conservation Commission

There shall be a Conservation Commission appointed by the Town Council consisting of 5 members, called conservation commissioners authorized by MRSA 30-A sec 3261.

Terms of Office

Initially terms shall be for one (1), two (2) and three (3) years and 3 year terms thereafter.

Prohibition of Membership

A Town Councilor may not be a conservation commissioner.

Organization Membership

On or about April 1, the commission shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman and secretary from its own membership.

Duties

The chairman shall call and preside at all meetings of the conservation commission. The vice chairman shall act in the absence of the chairman. The secretary shall keep the official minutes of the commission.

Powers & Duties

The conservation has the following powers and duties:

1. Mt. Pisgah Community Conservation Area. The commission shall advise the Town Council regarding all matters relating to the MPCCA.
2. Research and Coordination The commission shall conduct research in conjunction with the Planning Board, into the local land access and shall seek to coordinate the activities of conservation bodies organized for similar purposes.
3. Information It may advertise, prepare, print, and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which it deems necessary within the limits of any funds appropriated for that purpose by the town council or otherwise acquired.
4. Index of Open Areas It shall keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, within the town, including open marsh lands, swamps and other wet lands, for the purpose of obtaining information, pertinent to proper utilization, protection, development, or use of these open areas and may recommend to the Town Council or any town body or board, or any body politic or public agency of the state a program for the better utilization, protection, development or use of these areas which may include the acquisition of conservation easements.

5. Land acquisition It may, with approval of the Town Council, acquire land in the name of the town for any of the purposes set forth in section 4.

6. Gifts It may, with the approval of the Town Council, receive gifts in the name of the town for any of its purposes and shall administer the same for such purposes subject to the terms of the gift.

7. Records and Annual Report It shall keep records of its meetings and activities and shall make an annual report to the town to be published as part of the annual town report.

Definition of Open Areas

For the purposes of this division, “open areas” means any space or area the preservation or restriction of the use of which would maintain or enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources, protect natural streams or water supplies, promote conservation of swamps, wetlands, beaches, or tidal marshes, enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, forests, wildlife preserves, nature reservations or sanctuaries, or other open areas or spaces, affect or enhance public recreation opportunities, preserve historic sites, implement the plan of development, adopted by the planning commission of any municipality, or promote orderly urban or suburban development.

State Law reference – Open areas definition- MRSA 30-A Sec 2001 (13).