

General Information

Fees

- Determination Of Applicability - No application fee however a notice must be published in the local newspaper at least five days prior to the meeting at the applicant's expense.
- Notice Of Intent - The fee varies depending on the scope of work. Please consult the NOI instructions

Submission Deadlines

- Applications must be received by the Commission at least fourteen days before the next meeting date
- Notice of hearing must be advertised no later than five days prior to the hearing

Frequently Asked Questions

- **When do I need to file with the Conservation Commission?** *You need to file with the Conservation Commission whenever work is proposed within 100 feet of a wetland or 200 feet of a perennial stream.*
- **What activities are prohibited in Resource Areas?** *Removal, filling, dredging, grading, building, landscaping in a wetland area is prohibited without a permitting process.*
- **What permit application should I use?** *A "Request For Determination Of Applicability" should be used for simple projects that will not alter or impact the wetland or resource area. Major projects such as building, landscaping, commercial developments require a "Notice Of Intent."*
- **What is the definition of "Wetlands?"** *WPA regulations protect rivers, streams, (perennial if they run year round, and intermittent if they dry up seasonally); lakes and ponds; the vegetated wet areas bordering rivers, streams, lakes, or ponds (bordering vegetated wetlands or BVW); the 100 year year floodplain along rivers and streams; isolated areas that flood seasonally such as vernal pools; the first 100 feet from a vegetated wetland known as the "Buffer Zone," The first 200 feet from the edge of a a perennial stream known as "Riverfront Area." Vegetated wetlands are determined by examining plant species, hydrology, and soil analysis.*
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- **What is Chapter 61?** *Massachusetts Chapter 61 laws reduce property taxes on farmland, forest, or open space in exchange for a commitment from the landowner to keep the land undeveloped. While Chapter 61 in itself does not permanently protect the land, it maintains open space and is often a first step towards more permanent conservation. For more information see the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust link.*