

WELCOME

Are you here for a Conservation Commission Meeting?

The Spencer Conservation Commission is the responsible body for protecting and enhancing natural and recreational resources within the town and administers state and local wetlands laws. It works with other departments to create and maintain an Open Space & Recreation Plan, as well as sections of the Spencer Master Plan. The Commission monitors gravel mining and forestry. It gathers and spreads accurate information concerning Spencer water, wetlands, soils, habitats, and wildlife, and answers questions about conservation and environmental issues. The Conservation Commission renders decisions based on the Town's Wetlands Bylaw and the State's Wetlands Protection Act (WPA).

Why didn't I receive a notice?

"Parties in interest" as used in Mass General Law shall mean the petitioner, abutters, owners of land directly opposite on any public or private street or way, and abutters to the abutters within three hundred feet of the property line of the parcel in question as they appear on the most recent applicable tax list, notwithstanding that the land of any such owner is located in another city or town.

What happens at the meeting?

The Chair of the Commission will open the public meeting, and then will open the public hearings. Applicants/owners will have a chance to present and discuss their application with the Commission members. After the Commission deliberates, the Chair will open the meeting up to the Public for questions and comments

Public Participation

All members of the Public may attend the open session of any public meeting. Members of the Public may not address the Commission without permission of the Chair, or otherwise disrupt meetings. Members of the Public may make audio or video recordings of open sessions upon prior notification to the Chair, and subject to reasonable requirements. The Chair must inform attendees of any recordings being made by the Public at the beginning of the public meeting. If a member of the Public continues to disrupt a meeting after clear warning from the Chair, the Chair may order the person to leave the meeting. If the person does not leave, the Chair may authorize a constable or other officer to remove that person.

What happens if I don't agree with how the Commission votes?

As a party in Interest, Appeals to decisions made by the Conservation Commission under the WPA must be made within 10 business days of the decision, i.e. the vote of the Commission, and are filed with the State Department of Environmental Protection in Worcester. Standing to take an appeal varies from an appeal to the Superior Court and is outlined in 310 CMR 10.05 (7) which also outlines the process. It is also important to note that who has the legal right to file an appeal or who has "standing" will vary depending on whether the permit was denied or approved by the Commission.