

ORG FUNCTION: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Department Number 171

Shannon Palmer
Conservation Administrator

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|---------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Salaries: | \$117,560 | 5.6% |
| Expenses: | \$21,900 | (23.6%) |
| Total Budget FY24: | \$145,706 | (0.4%) |

Mission & Services Overview

MISSION: The Conservation Department serves as the municipal focal point for environmental protection in North Attleborough. Working under the authority of the Conservation Commission Act of 1957, the Commission is responsible for protecting the community's important natural resources and acquiring land for conservation and recreation. The Commission is also responsible for administering and enforcing the MA Wetlands Protection Act (G.L. Ch. 131 §40), a law which protects wetlands and the public interests they provide including flood control, pollution prevention, storm damage prevention, protection of water supplies, and wildlife habitat.

SERVICES: In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act and implementing regulations, the Conservation Commission reviews proposed activities and processes permit applications for work in and near wetlands, flood plains, banks, riverfront areas, and surface waters. The Conservation Commission also manages over 600 acres of conservation land, the two town ponds, and two high hazard dams. Further, the Commission is also a designated Stormwater Authority charged with protecting the town's water resources through administration of the North Attleborough Stormwater Bylaw.

FY23 Accomplishments

- Continued administration and enforcement of the WPA, issued 16 permits for work in Commission's jurisdiction (to date)
- Reviewed all development projects (through Viewpoint) for compliance with Stormwater Bylaw and Stormwater Regulations to further protect town's water resources
- Aquatic Management Program at Falls and Whiting's ponds completed (July-September)
- Initiated Falls Pond Dam Maintenance project (CIP), project design complete, going to BID in February 2023, construction to start late winter
- Awarded Dam and Seawall Construction Grant from EEA in amount of \$157,000 for work at Falls Dam
- Continued revisions to 2021 OSRP in accordance with state's conditional approval letter (January 2022). Updated plan to be submitted for final approval in January 2023. OSRP valid through 2029.

FY24 Goals and Objectives

- Complete Department SOPs
- Continue implementation of Open Space and Recreation Plan- Seven Year Action Plan
- Implement plans to expand passive recreation and access to the Martin Area in collaboration with KNAB
- Continue to evaluate existing conservation properties for new and expanded recreational opportunities, maintenance requirements, etc. Pursue DCS grants for trail creation and expansion.
- Review existing town land holdings for potential change of management to conservation, pursue new land acquisition opportunities, grants
- Continue work on Wetlands Bylaw

Organizational Chart & Personnel Accounting

Authorized: 2
On-Hand: 2
Vacant: 0

