

How To Be An Effective Conservation Commission

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Commission Basics



Commission Basics

Enabling Legislation



Commission Basics

Enabling Legislation

Legal Requirements



Commission Basics

Enabling Legislation

Legal Requirements

- Open Meeting Laws



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- Open Meeting Laws
 - Ethics Laws



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Ethics Laws

RIGL 45 - 35 - 1

RIGL 42 - 46 - 6

RI Const. Article III, Section 7



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Commission Members



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- Advertise for applicants



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- Advertise for applicants
- Interview potential members



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Commission Members

- Advertise for applicants
- Interview potential members
- Experience & Commitment



- Invite a council member to attend meetings and act as a liaison



- Invite a council member to attend meetings and act as a liaison
- Invite Planning Board to appoint a member to act as a liaison



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Relationships have to be nurtured
and developed through
engagement and cooperation



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. . . Rome wasn't built in a day!!



Role of the Commission



Role of the Commission

- Watch Dog



Role of the Commission

- Watch Dog
- Create an Inventory



Role of the Commission

- Watch Dog
- Create an Inventory
 - Education



Role of the Commission

- Watch Dog
- Create an Inventory
 - Education
 - Advocacy



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- Watch Dog
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 - Education
 - Advocacy
 - Planning



Role of the Commission

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 - Advocacy
 - Planning
- Open Space



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- Watch Dog
- Create an Inventory
 - Education
 - Advocacy
 - Planning
 - Open Space
- Land Acquisition



Role of the Commission

- Watch Dog
- Create an Inventory
 - Education
 - Advocacy
 - Planning
 - Open Space
 - Land Acquisition
- Environmental Advocate



What the Commission Should Be.



What the Commission Should Be.

- Positive



What the Commission Should Be.

- Positive
- Constructive



What the Commission Should Be.

- Positive
- Constructive
- Informative



What the Commission Should Be.

- Positive
- Constructive
- Informative
- A Resource



What the Commission Should Be.

- Positive
- Constructive
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- Prepared



What the Commission Should Be.

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- Diplomatic



What the Commission Should Be.

- Positive
- Constructive
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- Prepared
- Diplomatic
- Realistic



What the Commission
Shouldn't Be.



What the Commission Shouldn't Be.

- Unreasonable



What the Commission Shouldn't Be.

- Unreasonable
- Misinformed



What the Commission Shouldn't Be.

- Unreasonable
- Misinformed
- Unsure



What the Commission Shouldn't Be.

- Unreasonable
- Misinformed
 - Unsure
- **WRONG!**



What the Commission Shouldn't Be.

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- Misinformed
 - Unsure
- **WRONG!**
- Invisible



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- Misinformed
 - Unsure
- **WRONG!**
- Invisible
- Dismissed



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- Unprepared



Commission Activities



Commission Activities

- Environmental Advocate



Commission Activities

- Environmental Advocate
 - Inventory



Commission Activities

- Environmental Advocate
 - Inventory
 - Education



Commission Activities

- Environmental Advocate
 - Inventory
 - Education
 - Recycling



Commission Activities

- Environmental Advocate
 - Inventory
 - Education
 - Recycling
 - Water Protection



Commission Activities

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 - Inventory
 - Education
 - Recycling
 - Water Protection
 - Open Space



Commission Activities

- Environmental Advocate
 - Inventory
 - Education
 - Recycling
 - Water Protection
 - Open Space
 - Conservation Development



Commission Activities

- Environmental Advocate
 - Inventory
 - Education
 - Recycling
 - Water Protection
 - Open Space
 - Conservation Development
 - Earth Day



➤ Watchdog



➤ Watchdog

- Eyes & ears of DEM & EPA



➤ Watchdog

- Eyes & ears of DEM & EPA
- Anonymous tip line



➤ Watchdog

- Eyes & ears of DEM & EPA
- Anonymous tip line
- Inspect conservation easements



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➤ Planning & Development



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- Comprehensive Plan



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 - Resource protection



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 - Wetlands



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➤ Plan Review



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- Arrange for a site visit



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- Talk to abutters (where applicable)



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- State fact ~ not opinion



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- Don't just point out a problem



➤ Plan Review

- Arrange for a site visit
- Talk to abutters (where applicable)
- List positives & negatives
- Document with photos
- State fact ~ not opinion
- Be specific
- Don't just point out a problem
- 'Suggest' a solution



Summation



Summation

- Environmental Advocate



Summation

- Environmental Advocate
- Community Resource



Summation

- Environmental Advocate
- Community Resource
- Planning Partner



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- Community Resource
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Thank You

