



TOWN OF ARLINGTON

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ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Goals and Actions Identified for 2020

Yellow-highlighted goals/actions were prioritized for 2020 based on Conservation Commission meetings in Jan/Feb 2020.

Blue text indicates whether or not it was achieved and clarifications.

2021 Goals Outlined in the 2020 Annual Report

- A. Continue to strengthen and update regulations for permitting efficiency and process clarity with the specific goal to update the local Wetlands Regulations in early 2021.
- B. Improve the stewardship of conservation lands through better coordinated land management.
- C. Improve communication and educational outreach to residents in resource areas.
- D. Continue to look for opportunities to work collaboratively with neighboring towns and allied organizations towards protection of wetland resources.

1. Strengthen and update regulations for performance standards, permitting efficiency, and process clarity

- **Revise the Arlington Regulations for Wetlands Protection**
Began in 2020 – expected completion and vote early 2021
Commission needs to coordinate public review of the revision and disseminate it to other boards/committees/departments for review prior to vote
- **Add administrative project/general project process to regulations**
Done – added to revised regulations expected to be completed early 2021
- Add a consent agenda to meetings
- **Have Commission review/approve special conditions and OOCs for permits prior to permit issuance**
Done – this has been enacted as standard practice for OOCs

2. Host additional collaborative community clean-up and educational events

- **Devote 1-2 hours of a meeting to a wetland topic training and invite an expert to give the training**
Not Accomplished
- Target trainings to frequent issues in Town
- Coordinate with schools for project ideas and class curriculums
- **Open space clean-ups**
Not Accomplished due to COVID-19
Commission likely won't be able to host clean-ups until the summer or later per Town policies

3. Improve the stewardship of conservation lands and other town open spaces

- **Identify maintenance needs/gaps for ACC-managed properties and secure town resources for implementation**

In progress - Planning and Community Development Department submitted CPA Grant application for a Public Land Management Plan

- Open space clean-ups
- Tree planting
- Cooke's Hollow
- Vegetative buffers (C. Garnett's project)

In progress

- Floating wetlands pilot project
- Coordinate regional management of Upper/Lower Mystic Lakes

In progress – Have reached out to both the Winchester and Medford Conservation Agents, received all of Winchester's permits and waiting for Medford's. General interest from Winchester and Medford in coordinating Mystic Lake treatments but need to come to an agreed process for coordination with other municipalities.

- Promote low-impact landscaping, connect with groups like Garden Club and Sustainable Arlington
- Promote natural resource benefits
- Invasive removal
- Certify vernal pools
- Coordinate regional management of Upper/Lower Mystic Lakes

4. Improve communication and educational outreach to residents in resource areas

- Create a floodplain guidance document / resource area document

In progress – Draft document created but Commission asked Agent to find guidance from floodplain trainings. All 2020 trainings cancelled due to COVID-19 but will look into 2021 trainings.

- Write educational articles for the Advocate and online
- Add tips and FAQ to webpage
- Include open forum for general questions on meeting agendas
- Create a list of all properties that fall under Commission jurisdiction and proactively send mailings about permitting procedures
- Attend MACC and AMWS workshops

5. Other

- Allow agenda time during a meeting at least once per quarter to discuss how processes are going, recommendations for improvements/changes, needs for education, and to evaluate how the Commission is progressing on 2020 goals
- Include open forum for general questions on meeting agendas
- Create a master permit tracking list
Done – need to add a 2021 goal to update and review this list on a regular basis.
This list is updated with every permit application we receive.
- Schedule site visits for substantive projects prior to first hearing
- Encourage the Conservation Agent to provide recommendations on applications during hearing
- Have Commissioners submit questions/comments prior to first hearing
- Invite other town committees (Park & Recreation, DPW, etc.) to meetings to discuss areas of overlap and to improve permit coordination
- Create a permitting guide with ZBA, Inspectional Services, ARB, etc.

- Encourage each Commission member to lead at least one special project during the year or act as liaison to an existing project/effort.