

MINUTES
RTM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
April 22, 2013

Present: Jonathan Cunitz, Allen Bomes, John Suggs, Wendy Batteau,
Diane Cady and

Alica Mozian, Conservation Director

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT BUDGET

SERVICES

The Conservation Department is comprised of five full-time and one ¼ time person. The work of the committee is varied and complex:

- Administers and enforces the Inland Wetland and Watercourse Regulations and the Waterway Protection Line Ordinance, serves as wetland agents for the Town with permits and enforcement plus handling applications that fall under these ordinances.
- Staff: verifies inland wetland boundaries based on soil profiles
- ...and serves as staff to the Shellfish Commission and Sasco Brook Pollution Abatement Committee
- ...and issues multiple kinds of permits
- ...and drafts legal notices, inspects properties, prepares staff reports and testifies in court when needed.

Staff also:

- Advises the public in land use relating to wetlands, waterways, watercourses and floodplains
- Works with volunteer, governmental and nongovernmental agencies on public outreach education and service projects.

PERFORMANCE

The successes of the Conservation Department include

- Cleaner water for drinking, shellfish and open beaches
- Decrease in wetland and WPLO violations
- Removal of invasive plant species
- Compliance with new stormwater mandates
- Maintaining floodplain and other regulations
- Keeps our watercourses from being impaired waterways

BUDGET NOTES

This budget results in a \$3,105 or .89% increase in the budget

- ✓ Income: A 32% increase in permit fees over 2012, with more income increase in 2013 predicted. These funds go to the Town and State.
- ✓ These budget items have reductions: fees and services, contract services, postage, supplies.
- ✓ Slight increases for extra help and overtime, transportation, equipment, computers. It is noted that a computer, about 13 years old, is being rebuilt.

The Committee supported the work and the budget of the Conservation Department.

YES

Jonathan Cunitz
Allen Bomes
John Suggs
Wendy Batteau
Diane Cady

Submitted by
Diane Cady, chair