

HARDWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION: BY-LAWS

MISSION STATEMENT

The advisory Conservation Commission will establish a community responsibility for Hardwick's natural resources.

BY-LAWS

Article 1 - MEMBERSHIP

A. The Conservation Commission shall consist of not less than 5 and not more than 9 members, all of whom are Hardwick residents. *

B. Conservation Commission members shall be appointed for 4-year terms by the Hardwick Town Selectboard. *

C. Any member of the Conservation Commission may be removed at any time for just cause by vote of the Commission, for reasons given to him or her in writing and after a public hearing thereon if he or she so requests.*

D. A Conservation Commission member who attends less than 60% of regular meetings during a given year may be asked to resign.

Article 2 - MEETINGS

A. The Conservation Commission shall meet monthly.

B. A simple majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for transacting business at meetings.

Article 3 - OFFICERS

A. At the first meeting after July 1, the membership shall elect a Chair (or Co-Chairs), a Secretary and a Treasurer.

B. The Officers shall constitute an Executive Committee with the authority to act for the full Commission in all matters

delegated to it by the Commission. The Executive Committee may appoint members to specific committees. The Chair (or Co-Chairs) shall be ex-officio members of all committees.

C. The Chair (or a Co-chair) shall preside at meetings.

D. The Secretary shall record minutes of Commission meetings. The Secretary shall also distribute minutes to the members and retain a file of such minutes.

E. The Treasurer shall keep financial records of the Commission and report regularly to the Commission. The Treasurer shall provide financial information to the Town Business Manager.

Article 4 - POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE HARDWICK CONSERVATION COMMISSION*

The Hardwick Conservation Commission may:

A. make an inventory and conduct continuing studies of the natural resources of the municipality, including but not limited to:

1. air, surface and ground waters, and pollution thereof;
2. soils and their capabilities;
3. mineral and other earth resources;
4. streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, and floodplains;
5. unique or fragile biologic sites;
6. scenic and recreational resources;
7. plant and animal life, especially rare or endangered species;
8. prime agricultural and forest land, and other open lands;

B. make and maintain an inventory of lands within the municipality with historic, educational, cultural, scientific, architectural, or archaeological values in which the public has an interest;

C. recommend to the legislative body of the municipality the purchase or the receipt of gifts of land or rights thereto, or other property, for the purpose of this chapter;

D. receive appropriations for operating expenses including clerical help by appropriation through the budget of the legislative body;

E. receive money, grants or private gifts from any source, for the purposes of this chapter. Grants and gifts received by the trustee of public funds shall be carried in a conservation fund from year to year to be expended only for purposes of this chapter;

F. receive gifts of land or other property for the purposes of this chapter, by consent of the legislative body or by the affirmative vote of the municipality;

G. administer the lands, properties and other rights which have been acquired by the municipality for the purposes of this chapter;

H. assist the local planning commission or zoning board of adjustment or the district environmental commission, by providing advisory environmental evaluations where pertinent to applications made to those bodies, for permits for development;

I. cooperate with the local legislative body, planning commission, zoning board of adjustment, road committee, or other municipal or private organizations on matters affecting the local environment or the natural resources of the municipality;

J. prepare, collect, publish, advertise and distribute relevant books, maps and other documents and maintain communication with similar organizations; and encourage through educational activities the public understanding of local natural resources and conservation needs;

K. make a brief annual report to the municipality of its finances and transactions for the year just passed, and its plans and prospects for the ensuing year.

Article 5 - AMENDMENTS

A. Those parts of these by-laws not covered in Vermont State Statutes may be amended, in whole or in part, by a majority of the members at a meeting at which a quorum is

present, provided notice has been given of the proposed amendments to all members at least 30 days before the meeting.

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**= Taken from Vermont State Statutes, Title 24: Municipal and County Government/ Chapter 118: Conservation Commissions*

Adopted 01.21.2020