

# Conservation Commission Filings

The Conservation Commission reviews projects that occur *in and within* 100' of resource areas such as dunes, coastal banks, ponds, vegetated wetlands, vernal pools, and salt marshes. The projects are reviewed to ensure they comply with state and local wetlands regulations and contain conditions that are designed to protect and restore buffer zones.

## **Administrative Review**

An Administrative Review is filed for smaller projects such as: small deck expansions, deck resurfacing, outdoor showers, removal of one or two trees or shrubs, light pruning and fence installation. It is valid for one year.

## **Request for Determination of Applicability**

A Request for Determination of Applicability is filed for a project that may be quite close to a resource area (dune, pond, coastal bank) and involve slightly more work or impact than an administrative review. These projects might include: removal of three or more dead or diseased trees, a small shed that is far from the resource area. Or other construction in an area that is already lawn or that will not impact vegetated areas. Plans or drawings may be required and detailed project descriptions.

## **Notice of Intent**

This filing is for larger projects such as: home additions, garages, new decks, sunrooms, invasive species management, vista pruning, beach/pond access stairways and walkways and maintenance of coastal structures. This involves submitting detailed plans and a project narrative, and filling out additional forms. Planting plans may also likely be required to restore disturbed areas. The permit issued for the work is called an Order of Conditions. This permit may be extended for up to three years and amended. When the project is complete, a Certificate of Compliance filing is necessary to close out the permit officially. This process ensures that the project was completed according to the approved plans and documents.

## ***Mitigation***

For many projects the Conservation Commission will often require mitigation in the form of native plantings. This is to ensure there is no net-loss of habitat and ensure that the buffer zone to resource areas are maintained in good condition to preserve habitat value and water quality, while also allowing the project to take place.