

Commission Charter

York Conservation Commission

Standing Commission. The York Conservation Commission is a standing commission established by the Town of York Home Rule Charter, Article III, Section 8, under provisions of Maine statute Title 30-A: Ch. 157, §3261.

Membership. The Commission shall be comprised of 5 regular members, plus 2 alternate members. Appointments shall be made by the Board of Selectmen for 3-year terms, staggered so that no more than 2 appointments expire in any given year. Members shall serve until the appointment of their successors. The Commission may recommend individuals to the Board of Selectmen to be appointed as alternate members, with terms of one, 2, or 3 years. Members will elect officers (chair or co-chairs, vice chair, secretary) at the first Commission meeting in April.

Meetings. The Commission shall meet at least once each month. All regular meetings shall be public and conducted in conformance with Maine statutes and the York Home Rule Charter. Meeting place and time shall be posted on the Town's weekly meeting list. Minutes shall be taken and provided to the Town Clerk for archiving and posting on the Commission's page of the Town website.

Mission. The mission of the Commission is to ensure the protection and proper utilization of the natural resources and ecosystems of York: rivers and ponds, watershed and wetlands, open spaces, beaches, and scenic vistas.

Budget. The Commission may seek an annual operating budget through the Town Manager's office. The budget is to be used to advance the conservation mission.

Responsibilities. The Commission's responsibilities include:

1. Conducting studies and making recommendations as to the protection, development, maintenance, and use of the natural resources located within the town limits of York. It shall coordinate its activities with existing municipal agencies, commissions, departments, and bodies organized for similar purposes (e.g., York Land Trust) and may advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which it deems necessary to further implement these duties.
2. Supporting the development of and adherence to the York Comprehensive Plan.
3. Reviewing current and proposed development projects in town to determine potential impacts on natural resources and make recommendations to the Planning Board/Board of Appeals accordingly; this includes feedback solicited by the

Planning Board re Open Space Conservation Subdivision applications (Zoning Ordinance 7.6.1.I). A member of the Commission should attend all site walks for proposed residential and commercial developments, as scheduled by the Planning Board.

4. Assisting Town departments in management of Town-held conservation easements.
5. Promoting environmentally sound land/lawn management practices in York, for both public and private land, consistent with town practice of Integrated Pest Management.
6. Working with town resources to create, maintain and make public an Open Space Inventory for the Town; identify current conservation lands and identify priorities for conservation, preservation and/or acquisition in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan.
7. Assisting in the implementation of recommendations in the York Wild and Scenic Stewardship Plan.
8. Making recommendations to the Parks & Recreation Board and the Board of Selectmen about conservation land acquisitions (in fee or by easement) which the Town should pursue. Acquisitions could be achieved by unilateral action by the Town or through partnerships with other organizations with shared interests.
9. Making recommendations to the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen with regard to the Zoning Ordinance and other land use codes in order to promote policies that advance natural resource conservation.
10. Meeting with the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board, or the Board of Appeals, when appropriate, to discuss activities that may impact the York environment.