

About Sudbury Conservation Commission Hearings

Welcome to this meeting of the Sudbury Conservation Commission (SCC). The SCC was established in 1962 to protect local natural resources and features and to act as stewards of the town's conservation properties. The Commission has seven Commissioners who are residents and appointed by the Town Manager. The purpose of our meetings, is to carry out our responsibilities for implementing and enforcing the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Sudbury Wetlands Administration Bylaw.

The SCC does not support or deny applications based on 'philosophical ideology'. The laws surrounding environmental issues are based on standards set forth by the State Department of Environmental Protection and our own Sudbury Wetlands Bylaw. The question for the Commission is not whether or not they like or agree with the proposal; it is whether or not the proposal meets the performance standards in the wetland regulations. The Commission is responsible for enforcing those laws. Additionally, The SCC is responsible for protecting the integrity of any project, working with each Applicant to ensure the applicant understands the process, and help with any questions or issues that may arise regarding the process.

Our agenda is posted at the entrance to the meeting room and DPW building. You will notice that it includes many items and Commission meetings are often very lengthy. To keep the meetings moving, the Chair may ask applicants and the public to be succinct with their remarks so that meetings can be as efficient as possible. The SCC respects everyone equally but needs to keep discussion on track related only to wetland issues connected to the decision of the Commission. If anyone has concerns with the Chair or the SCC, we ask that you mention it after the meeting or send an email to chairconcom@gmail.com.

During each meeting, the Chair will proceed through the agenda and ask the Applicant to describe the request. Next, the Conservation Coordinator presents comments and recommendations and then the Commissioners may ask questions or seek clarification. If the agenda item is a hearing, then the Chair will ask for input from the public. The protocol is:

1. Once recognized by the Chair, each speaker should first provide his/her name and address and direct all comments to the Chair.
2. Since the SCC's jurisdiction is only under the Wetlands Protection Act or Sudbury Wetland Bylaw, it is important to limit comments to these Acts for wetland public hearings.
3. The Chair will direct the question to the appropriate responder. If a topic has been discussed the Chair may deny other redundant comments.
4. If you have difficulty seeing or hearing, please notify the Chairman.

After receiving input, the Commission deliberates and either votes to close the hearing if all information has been received or, continue the hearing if not. If the hearing is closed, the Commission may immediately deliberate and vote on requested action or delay deliberation and place on the next meeting agenda. Finally, the Chair will remind the applicant and the public of the right to appeal with its attendant rights and requirements. Thank you for attending our meetings.

