

The Conservation Commission will be holding a public hearing on the revised Town Wetland Bylaw. The revised bylaw will be on the Town Warrant for the April 2010 Town meeting.

The Manchester Conservation Commission will be seeking approval of a Revised Wetlands By-Law at the April 5, 2010 Town Meeting. The revised Wetlands Bylaw utilizes the template recommended by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions and is intended to cure certain jurisdictional and enforcement deficiencies of the Town's existing Bylaw .

Over the past few years, Massachusetts courts have clarified the scope and enforceability of locally imposed standards under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. These court rulings, coupled with the Conservation Commission's recent experience with significant projects and initiatives requiring approval and permitting under State and/or local law, necessitated the Commission's consideration of how to assure the Town can adequately protect its wetland values and resources. The Commission believes that the revised Wetlands By-Law meets that goal, while also extending additional safeguards to some of Manchester's most precious environmental resources, namely, intermittent streams, freshwater wetlands, salt marshes and coastal banks.