

CUTTING OF TREES IN A WETLAND AREA

Holland Conservation Commission

Under the MA Wetlands Protection Act and supporting MA-DEP regulations, no one may cut down a tree in a wetland buffer zone without obtaining a permit from the Conservation Commission. You must contact the Commission if:

- The tree is within 100 feet of the lake or within 200 feet of perennial streams or brooks.
- The tree is over 10 feet high.
- The tree's trunk diameter is over 6 inches at breast height.

Applicant Procedure:

- Download the WPA Form 1 (Request for Determination) from the Holland Conservation Commission website, from the Mass DEP website at mass.gov/ees/agencies/massdep/ or pick one up at our office at Town Hall.
- At least **two weeks** prior to when you would like to meet with the Commission, either email the completed form to us at town.holland.ma.us/conservation-commission, give it to the Board Clerk at Town Hall, or put it in our mailbox inside the Town Hall.
- The Commission will place a notice in a newspaper that will run for five days prior to the scheduled meeting. The legal notice will indicate the date, time and location of the scheduled meeting; the cost to the applicant is currently \$60.
- The applicant must mark the tree proposed to be cut down with a ribbon or paint.
- The Commission will schedule a site visit by two or more members to look at the tree, take photos and mark the base of the tree to help ensure that the correct tree is cut down.

The Commission requests that the applicant consider replacement of the cut tree with a tree or shrubs in an appropriate location. Trees and shrubs maintain water quality by stabilizing soils and removing the nutrients that promote weed growth in water bodies.