

## **ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A CONSERVATION COMMISSION IN THE TOWN OF PLAINVILLE**

**SECTION 1.** There is hereby established in the Town of Plainville a Conservation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission" consisting of eleven (11) members, appointed by the Town Manager with the approval of the Town Council, who shall serve for a term of four (4) years from date of appointment. Members serving on the Conservation Commission in existence on the date of adoption of this Ordinance, as amended, shall continue to serve for the terms for which they have been appointed. The Town Manager, with the approval of the Town Council, shall fill any vacancy on said Commission by appointment for the unexpired portion of such term. Members of said Commission shall serve without compensation.

**SECTION 2. (a).** The Commission shall elect a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary from among its members for such terms as the Commission may designate, to hold office until their successors have been elected and qualified.

(b) Said Commission shall make rules and regulations for the transaction of its business and shall keep a record of all votes and other proceedings of its meetings.

(c) Should a member of the Commission be disqualified for any reason regarding any matter upon which the Commission is to take action, the remaining members may appoint another elector to take his place, to perform duties in respect to the particular matter and for no longer.

(d) The Commission may employ necessary technical, legal and clerical assistance and prescribe the compensation for such services rendered. However nothing in this ordinance shall be construed to authorize the Commission to expend funds other than appropriations made to it pursuant to law, or funds derived from gifts, grants or other sources and made available to its use for purposes prescribed herein.

**SEC. 3.** The Commission shall concern itself with the development, conservation, supervision and regulation of natural resources, and shall coordinate its efforts with other municipal and state agencies, as appropriate. Its functions shall be investigative in nature, and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) Water. Review problems of water pollution and water supply; maintain continuous inspection of streams and water areas, and report violation of pollution controls laws simultaneously to offenders, town officials and state officials.

(b) Soil and Land. Urge adoption of good land use and soil conservation practices. Establish, and periodically revise, a conservation study of the Town, including appropriate maps. The Commission may conduct research into the utilization and possible utilization of land area of the municipality and may coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes. The Commission may keep an index of all open areas, public or privately owned, including wetlands, for the purpose of obtaining information on the proper use of such areas, and may, from time to time, make recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission on plans and programs for the development and use of such areas. The Commission may make recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands agency and other municipal agencies on proposed land-use changes. The Commission may recommend to the Town Council the acquisition of land or easements for open space use. The Commission may, with the prior approval of the Town Council, acquire land and easements in the name of the Town, promulgate rules and regulations, including but not limited to the establishment of reasonable charges for the use of land and easements, for any of its purposes as set forth in Connecticut General Statutes 7-131a.

(c) Recreation. Work with the Department of Recreation and Parks in planning for present and future park and recreation needs. Study and urge development of multiple-use and open green areas principles.

(d) Wildlife. Urge use of open spaces, marshland and flood plain for wildlife development and sanctuary. Stress importance of such land and other "waste areas" to wildlife.

(e) Information and Education. Act as coordinating agency for the Town on conservation matters. Inform citizens of services available from federal, state and private conservation agencies. Promote and encourage conservation activities.

(f) Grants. The Commission may receive gifts or grants in the name of the Town for any of the Commission's purposes and shall administer the same for such purposes subject to the terms of the gift or grant. If the Town council grants approval, the Commission may apply for grants-in-aid for programs established to preserve the use of open space land or restrict it to conservation or

recreation purposes. Any such application made by another town agency may be submitted for prior approval by the Conservation Commission prior to submission.

(g) Other. Such other duties as may be conferred upon the Commission by State Statute or by assignment from the Town Council.

**SEC. 4.** The provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable, and the invalidity of any portion thereof shall not affect the validity of the remainder.

**SECTION 5.** This ordinance shall take effect after passage and thirty days after publication as required by law.

Adopted by Town Council October 18,1971  
Amended July 16,1979, October 21,1991 & June 7, 2004