

DIVISION 2. CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Sec. 2-76. Commission established.

A conservation commission is hereby established to consist of seven (7) members appointed by the city council, all of whom shall be residents of the city, one from each of the five (5) voting districts of the city who shall be a resident of the district for which he is appointed and two (2) members from the city at-large, and who shall serve without pay. Vacancies created by members moving from their districts or from the city shall be governed by Code of Ordinances Sec. 2-121(c). The terms of office shall be three (3) years except that initial appointments after the date of adoption of this article shall be such that the terms of no more than three (3) members shall expire in any single year.

Upon recommendation of the commission, the city council may appoint seven associate members to the commission. Associate members shall be residents of the city, one from each of the five (5) voting districts and two (2) at large. Associate members shall serve for terms of three (3) years from the date of appointment. Associate members shall advise the commission and shall be nonvoting members.

All members, including associate members, shall satisfy the attendance requirements for all boards and commissions in the City of South Portland as established in Sec. 2-121(d).

(Ord. No. 4-89/90, 8-21-89; Ord. No. 22-96/97, 6/16/97, Fiscal note: less than \$1000, Ord. No. 3-99/00, 10/4/99, [Fiscal Note: Less than \$1000])

Sec. 2-77. Purpose.

The purpose of the conservation commission shall be to serve as a research, advisory and advocacy group on environmental and conservation issues relating to the city.

(Ord. No. 4-89/90, 8-21-89)

Sec. 2-78. Qualifications.

All members of the commission shall be selected upon the basis of their knowledge of conservation, environmental science or related fields.

(Ord. No. 4-89/90, 8-21-89)

Sec. 2-79. Powers and duties.

The commission:

- (a) Shall keep records of its meetings and activities and make an annual report to the city council;
- (b) Shall conduct research in conjunction with the planning board into local land areas;

- (c) Shall seek to coordinate the activities of conservation bodies organized for similar purposes;
- (d) Shall keep an index of all open areas within the city, whether publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, for the purpose of obtaining information relating to the proper protection, development or use of those open areas. The commission may recommend to the city council or to any board of the city or to any body politic or public agency of the state a program for the better protection, development or use of such open areas, which may include the acquisition of conservation easements;
- (e) May advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which it considers necessary;
- (f) Shall assist the city in promotion of its open space and park plans, including the Greenbelt Master Plan, the Clarks Pond Study and the Recreational Area/Open Space Study and Linkage Plan; and
- (g) Shall undertake any other conservation or environmental activity referred to it by the city council.

(Ord. No. 4-89/90, 8-21-89)

Sec. 2-80. Officers, meetings and records.

- (a) The members shall annually elect from their membership a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary.
- (b) All meetings of the commission shall be open to the public. Notice of each meeting shall comply with the city's notice policies.
- (c) Minutes shall be kept of all meetings with a copy filed with the city clerk. An annual report of the commission's activities shall be submitted to the city council in January of each year.

(Ord. No. 4-89/90, 8-21-89; Ord. No. 22-96/97, 6/16/97, Fiscal note: less than \$1000)

Sec. 2-81. Limits of authority.

Nothing contained within this section shall supersede the provisions of the City Charter, the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article IV, Tree Ordinance, or Chapter 18, Parks and Recreation. No powers and duties which may be exercised by conservation commissions under state statute which are not explicitly provided in this article may be exercised by the commission created herein.

(Ord. No. 4-89/90, 8-21-89)

Secs. 2-82--2-95. Reserved.