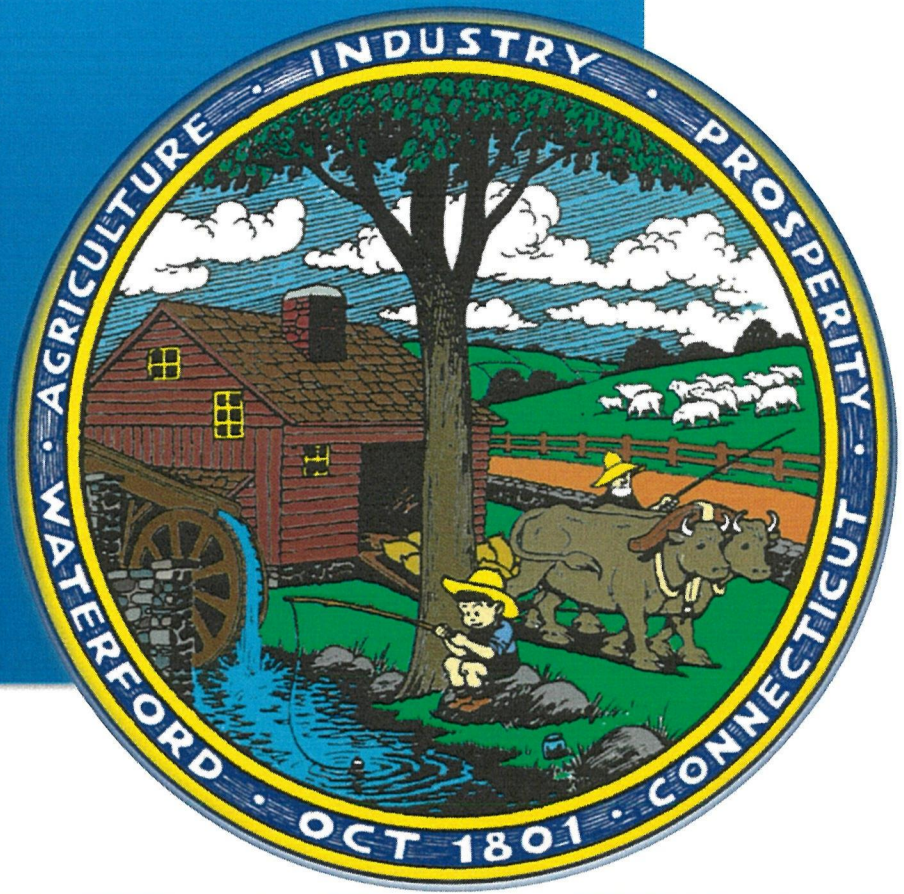


**TOWN OF WATERFORD
GENERAL FUND
2021-2022 PROPOSED BUDGET**

DEPT/AGENCY: 10114 CONSERVATION COMMISSION

LINE ITEM	DESCRIPTION	2019/2020 ACTUAL EXPENDED	2020/2021 RTM APPROP.	2020/2021 ADDITIONAL/ TRANSFERS	ACTUAL EXPEND & ENCUMBAS OF 1/1/21	2021/2022 DEPT/ AGENCY REQUEST	2021/2022 APPROVED BD/COMM.	Department Request \$ Increase	Department Request % Increase	2021/2022 RECOMMENDED BD OF SELECTMEN	BOS Request \$ Increase
SERVICES											
52010	ADVERTISING	902	1,500			1,500		0	0.00%		
52020	POSTAGE	104	125			125		0	0.00%		
52030	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	3,500	3,500			3,500		0	0.00%		
52031	PLANNING SERVICES	12,000	12,000			12,000		0	0.00%		
52050	DUES, CONF. & EDUC.	455	600			600		0	0.00%		
52060	PRINTING	0	25			25		0	0.00%		
	SUBTOTAL	16,961	17,750	0	0	17,750	0	0	0.00%	0	0
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES											
53020	OTHER SUPPLIES	8	500			500		0	0.00%		
	SUBTOTAL	8	500	0	0	500	0	0	0.00%	0	0
	DEPARTMENT TOTAL	16,969	18,250	0	0	18,250	0	0	0.00%	0	0



CONSERVATION COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET

Town of Waterford

<https://www.waterfordct.org/conservation-commission>

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MEMBERS

Richard Muckle, Chair
Tali Maidelis, Secretary
David Lersch
Jessica Patterson
Geneva Renegar
Michael Stankov
Wade Thomas

ALTERNATES

Ivy Plis
Julie Wainscott

BUDGET FUNCTION

The Waterford Conservation Commission serves as the Inland Wetlands Agency; reviewing applications, issuing permits and enforcing activities affecting inland wetlands and watercourses in accordance with the Waterford Inland Wetlands and Watercourses regulations and CT General Statutes 22a-36 through 22a-45. The Conservation Commission also carries out the statutory responsibilities of a municipal Conservation Commission, maintaining a survey of natural resources, reviewing land use proposals and making recommendations to other Boards and Agencies on natural resource identification and protection, and Open Space preservation.

The Conservation Commission conducted 14 regularly scheduled meetings and 3 special meetings in FY 20/21 and reviewed and approved 19 permit applications for activities in and adjacent to inland wetlands and watercourses. Inland Wetland permits authorized 0.43 acres of wetland fill, of which 0.40 acres involved temporary disturbance restored to functioning wetland resource, and 0.03 acres of permanent fill. Temporary impacts approved involved removal of invasive plant species and restoration of native wetland vegetation.

CONSERVATION FEE HISTORY

*FY2021 YTD 12/14/2020



FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET SUMMARY

The total requested ZBA Budget in FY 22 is \$ 18,250. This is the same amount as the approved FY21 budget.

Line Number	Description	Amount Requested
10114-52010	Advertising	\$ 1,500
10114-52020	Postage	\$ 125
10114-52030	Professional Services	\$ 3,500
10114-52031	Planning Services	\$ 12,000
10114-52050	Dues, Conferences and Education	\$ 600
10114-52060	Printing	\$ 25
10114-53020	Other Supplies	\$ 500
TOTAL		\$ 18,250

BUDGET EXPLANATIONS BY CATAGORY

Advertising Line 10114-52010 \$1,500 Requested



The advertising account covers the cost of all legal notice requirements required by State statute. This includes publication of notices of public hearings, enforcement orders and notices of decision on all Commission inland wetland agency actions. Advertisements for public hearings and decisions of the Commission are required to be published in a newspaper having general

circulation in Waterford. To off-set publication costs, the Commission requires an additional fee of \$400.00 when a public hearing is required for the legal notices. The costs of legal advertisements and required publications of decision are not anticipated to diminish.

The requested budgeted amount is consistent with that approved for prior fiscal years.

Postage Line 10114-52020 \$450 Requested

Postage expenditures include certified letter mailings required for Commission decisions on applications and enforcement proceedings, correspondence to Town residents, and referrals to municipal, State and Federal Offices.

The requested budget amount is consistent with that approved for the prior year.

Professional Fees Line 10114-52030

\$3,500 Requested

The professional services account is used to obtain professional technical reviews, retain expert witnesses, chemical laboratory analyses and other professional technical assistance unavailable at the municipal or State level which are needed to conduct the duties of the inland wetlands agency and the Conservation Commission. These services may include assisting the Commission with technical expert reviews of application documents, investigating complaints of wetland, soil or water quality impacts, documenting violations of the inland wetlands and watercourses regulations, providing expert testimony in court proceedings, or assisting the Commission in preparing natural resource surveys.

To carry out the responsibilities of the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Act, it is critical that the Commission have the ability to retain expert witnesses for determination of impacts to wetlands and watercourses in order to reach and maintain defensible decisions. Court case law has established that the finding of adverse impacts and justification for conditions of approval requires technical expertise and expert evidence in the application record. The Commission uses the expertise of staff members, and regional and state technical offices when available, however specific technical expertise may be required during the application process within a limited time frame. Having sufficient funding available to procure services when expert review is needed is essential in consideration of the strict time frames established by State Statute for rendering decisions on inland wetland applications.

The Conservation Commission's application fee schedule allows the Commission to charge the applicant for third party expert reviews and technical evaluations deemed necessary to assist in the review of complex permit applications. However, the Commission continues to require funds for obtaining professional expertise on items and activities not associated with complex permit applications.

Expenditures under this item are difficult to predict and are related to the number and complexity of permit applications, public hearings, and enforcement proceedings and technical requirements of the Commission. The requested amount will fund an estimated 25-35 hours of service at rates of \$100 - \$150/hr.

The Commission is requesting the same amount as approved for the previous fiscal year.

Planning Services Line 10114-52031

\$12,000 Requested

The Conservation Commission conducts a water quality monitoring program of freshwater streams and ponds in Waterford. Samples are collected at 30 locations in the early summer and late fall of a calendar year to track water quality over the growing season and monitor changes in quality over time. Sampling is conducted on Jordan Brook, Nevins Brook, Fenger Brook, Hunts Brook, Stony Brook, Oil Mill Brook and its tributaries, Millstone (Beebe) Brook, Green Swamp Brook and a tributary stream to Goshen Cove. Water quality parameters monitored include total coliform, e. coli and enterococci bacteria, chemical oxygen demand, chloride, pH, suspended solids, and nutrient loadings from nitrogen compounds and phosphorus.

The surface water quality monitoring program has been conducted for the past 18 years by the Conservation Commission and has generated comprehensive data on the quality of the town's water resources. This data is used to evaluate potential impacts of land development on stream health and to track changes in water chemistry over time. It also provides a scientific basis for the Conservation Commission to establish required levels of storm water treatment for development proposals, and water quality mitigation goals for enforcement proceedings.

Planning Services Line 10114-52031-Continued

Jordan Brook, Oil Mill Brook and Stony Brook support native trout and high quality waters. Habitat requirements for these fisheries include cool, oxygenated waters with suitable substrate conditions to provide food and aquatic habitat. Alterations and loss of vegetative cover, soil erosion, flow alterations and stormwater discharges can adversely impact the biological conditions of these watercourses.

The 2018 State of Connecticut Integrated Water Quality Report, submitted by CT DEEP to the EPA, identifies Alewife Cove, Niantic Bay and near-shore waters of Long Island Sound as not meeting designated uses of habitat for fish and other aquatic life. In addition, Alewife Cove, Jordan Cove, and areas of Niantic Bay and the Niantic River are listed as impaired for direct shellfish consumption due to bacteria levels. Fenger Brook is listed as not supporting designated uses for aquatic life and recreation. Hunts Brook downstream of the Miller Pond dam is listed as not supporting fish and aquatic life habitat.

The lower reach of Stony Brook south of Rte 1 has been identified as impaired for recreational use due to bacteria. The State is developing restoration policies to improve water quality and habitat of impaired waters.

Continued monitoring of these streams will assist the Town in tracking trends in water quality from land use changes and provide indication of where water quality is becoming affected. This long-term water quality monitoring is a critical part of the natural resource inventory work the Commission conducts. Town staff conducts the sampling to minimize costs. Cost variations are linked to the number of water samples collected.

The Commission is requesting the same amount for this item as approved in the previous fiscal year.

Dues, Conferences and Education Line 10114-52050 \$600 Requested

Expenditures from this line item include membership dues, commission and staff training, attendance at seminars and workshops. The Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act [CGS 22a-36 - 22a-45a] recommends members of inland wetland agency complete a comprehensive training program developed by the CT DEEP. Commissioners also attend environmental education conferences and legal seminars regarding inland wetlands to keep informed of changes to State Statute or case law affecting application review practices, public hearing records and decision-making for Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Regulations application. The Commission satisfies the minimum required training recommended by CT DEEP for inland wetlands agencies.

The Commission is requesting the same amount for this item as the previous fiscal year to maintain the level of training of its members.

Printing Line 10114-52060 \$25 Requested

Expenditures under this line item include printing of oversized documents, maps and colored copies, which cannot be printed or are unavailable at Town facilities. As a result of changes in court procedures, some printing funds may be necessary to reproduce, in paper or digital format, large documents and files.

The amount requested under this line item is the same as the prior fiscal year.

Other Supplies Line 10114-53020 \$500 Requested

Funds in this account are used to purchase and maintain environmental testing/monitoring equipment, safety equipment, survey flagging, and Conservation Easement and Non-Encroachment Boundary Line markers for field markings. This equipment allows the Conservation Commission with its professional staff to perform wetland identification, water testing, natural resource inventory and conservation easement boundary marking that would otherwise require contracting for outside professional services.

The amount requested under this line item is the same as the previous year.

HISTORY OF EXPENDITURES AND PROPOSED BUDGET

10114	Actual Budget Expenditures				Approved Funds	Proposed
	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
52010 ADVERTISING	\$ 960.00	\$ 765.00	\$ 469.80	\$ 901.65	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
52020 POSTAGE	\$ 85.89	\$ 80.65	\$ 50.12	\$ 104.40	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00
52030 PROFESSIONAL FEES	\$ -	\$ 2,900.00	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
52031 PLANNING SERVICES	\$ 10,126.00	\$ 10,665.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
52050 DUES, CONFERENCES & EDUCATION	\$ 345.00	\$ 545.00	\$ 485.00	\$ 455.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
52060 PRINTING	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
53020 OTHER SUPPLIES	\$ 264.61	\$ 243.37	\$ 404.37	\$ 8.40	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00