



Draft

LUNENBURG CONSERVATION COMMISSION
("The Commission")

LAND USE REGULATIONS

978-582-4146 Conservation Commission
978-582-4150 Police

January 2011

1.0 Permitted Activities

1.1 The following activities are allowed by right on Conservation Land during hours of operation set forth in paragraph 1.3.

- Bird watching;
- Natural sound-scape appreciation;
- Hunting in accordance with the Conservation Commissions policy, State law and town bylaws
- Cross country skiing and snowshoeing;
- Dog walking (under restraint);
- Environmental education;
- Horse riding;
- Walking and hiking;
- Trail running;
- Night Sky Observations (by permit);
- Bicycling (non-motorized) on marked bike paths only;
- Nature Study;
- Photography, sketching and painting;
- Other general passive public recreational uses (exercise, Tai Chi, and the like).

1.2 The Commission reserves the right to amend, restrict or otherwise alter the uses set forth above.

2.0 Rules

2.1 Hours of Operation – Everyone is welcome to enjoy the Conservation Lands at no charge from dawn to dusk. Hours may be extended for a specific event if written permission is obtained from the Conservation Commission for the specific time and event.

2.2 Applications for usage beyond normal hours must be approved by the Commission at least 21 business days in advance of the event or use. The written permission shall be carried by the person in charge of the event at all times during the event. Overnight camping groups must have an adult in charge, must obtain a fire permit if open fires are planned, and must notify the Chief of Police and the Commission of exact dates and

occupancy and contact information of the accompanying responsible adults. Evidence of notice to the Police must be provided to the Commission at the time of application.

2.3 All motorized recreational vehicles such as, but not limited to, mini-bikes, mopeds, snowmobiles, ATVs, dirt bikes and the like are prohibited, except for vehicles used for public safety and emergencies, or approved in writing by the Commission for posted trails only (see next section). This shall be enforced by the local and environmental police.

2.4 Vehicular traffic on conservation land must be applied for and approved in writing by the Conservation Commission. Applications for all vehicular traffic must be approved at least 21 business days in advance of the use. The written permission shall be carried or maintained by the person or entity in charge of the event or permit duration at all times during the period, and may be revoked by the Commission at any time. Vehicles shall travel on posted trails only.

2.5 Any behavior, conduct and/or activity that infringes on another's undisturbed and quiet enjoyment is prohibited.

2.6 Fires, grills or fuel stoves are prohibited. Smoking is prohibited.

2.7 Drunkenness, breach of the peace, and disorderly conduct are prohibited. Alcoholic beverages and glass containers are prohibited.

2.8 No person shall injure, deface, destroy, remove or carry off any sign, structure, facility, or other property. Construction of signs, dams, shelters, bridges, handrails or any other structure is prohibited without written permission of the Commission at least 21 business days in advance of the activity. A Request for Determination of Applicability may be required to be submitted by the applicant to the Commission.

2.9 Organized or commercial events on Conservation Lands, which charge fees or raise or collect funds, for any purpose, are not allowed without Commission approval. Written approval for the activity must be given by the Commission at least 21 business days in advance of the event or use. The written permission shall be carried by the person in charge of the event at all times during the event. The Chief of Police must be notified and evidence of the notice be provided to the Commission at the time of application. Proof of insurance liability coverage must be provided to the Commission at the time of application.

2.10 Posters, leaflets, placards, advertisements or any other sign shall not be distributed on, or affixed to any property without Commission approval.

2.11 The possession or discharge of any firearm is prohibited on any Conservation Commission land other than Hunting Hill, as specified elsewhere in this document.

2.12 Hunting by firearm is allowed ONLY at the Hunting Hill property jointly owned by Lunenburg, Shirley and the MA Fisheries and Wildlife Dept., in accordance with MGL, Chapter 131, § 1 et seq. Discharge of firearms shall comply with Article IX, Section 2 of the town bylaw.

2.13 No hunting is allowed on Sundays.

2.14 Discharge of firearms on any property owned by the Conservation Commission is prohibited at all times (except Hunting Hill). Hunting by bow is allowed on all property owned by the Conservation Commission in accordance with State laws and town bylaws (Article IX, Section 2).

2.15 No hunting is allowed within 500 feet of any structure or within 150 feet of any road in accordance with MA law (see MGL Ch. 140). Tree stands must be removed by the end of the applicable hunting season. That which is in season shall only be allowed to be hunted.

2.16 The carrying or discharge of BB guns, pellet guns, paintball guns, airsoft guns and similar non-lethal weapons is prohibited.

2.17 Digging, back-filling, disturbing, cutting or removing vegetation is prohibited, except by Commission approval. No growing trees, bushes, plants or flowers shall be defaced or cut, without written authorization of the Commission.

2.18 The disposal of sand, gravel, fill, brush, grass clippings, leaves, yard waste, garbage, trash, and other household, landscape or commercial/industrial materials, including refuse and waste materials within the boundaries of any Commission property is prohibited. Trash and litter shall not be left on the property.

2.19 No person shall refuse or neglect to obey any posted regulatory sign, the lawful directions of a police officer, or the lawful directions of any authorized public official or Conservation Commissioner.

2.20 In accordance with Lunenburg bylaw Article IX, Section 1-A, dogs shall be deemed a public nuisance if they attack persons or domestic animals or when they are permitted to run unrestrained on Conservation Commission property. The Dog Officer shall apprehend

any dog he/she determines is a public nuisance. The person accompanying the dog shall promptly remove feces deposited by the dog on Conservation Commission property.

2.21 Public nudity is forbidden on any Conservation Commission property.

3.0 Enforcement

VIOLATIONS of these regulations shall be punished by a fine of \$100. Violation of these rules and regulations may be administered by the Lunenburg Conservation Commission or its agents, including the Lunenburg police and fire departments, under MA General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 8C.

4.0 Trail Stewardship Program

Lunenburg is establishing a trail stewards program. Trail stewards are thoughtful and responsible citizens who are committed to sustaining conservation land for future generations. This key group of volunteers will work with the Commission and commit to monitoring trails, support light trail maintenance as planned and permitted by the Commission, assist with trail maps and signs, encourage crime prevention efforts, and report back on trail conditions regularly. Interested citizens are encouraged to apply to the Commission.