# How To Be An Effective Conservation Commission

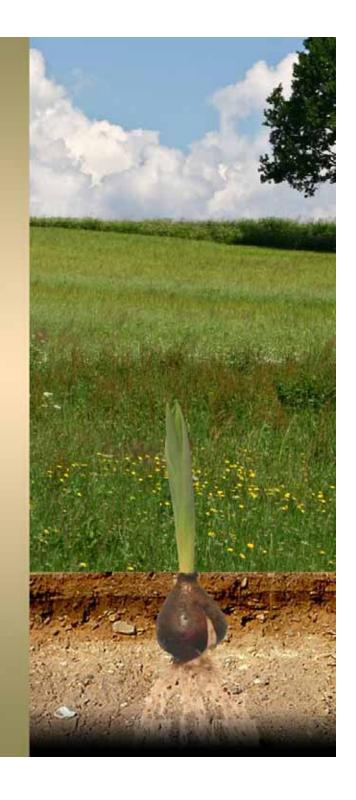
Donald P. Gagnon

Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council
RI Association of Conservation Commissions
North Smithfield Land Trust





## Commission Basics Enabling Legislation



**Enabling Legislation** 

Legal Requirements



**Enabling Legislation** 

Legal Requirements

Open Meeting Laws



Enabling Legislation<br/>Legal Requirements

- Open Meeting Laws
  - Ethics Laws



**Enabling Legislation** 

Legal Requirements

Open Meeting Laws

**Ethics Laws** 

RIGL 45 - 35 - 1

RIGL 42 - 46 - 6

RI Const. Article III, Section 7



**Enabling Legislation** 

Legal Requirements

- Open Meeting Laws
  - Ethics Laws

**Commission Members** 



Enabling Legislation<br/>Legal Requirements

- Open Meeting Laws
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**Commission Members** 

Advertize for applicants



Enabling Legislation Legal Requirements

- Open Meeting Laws
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#### **Commission Members**

- Advertize for applicants
- Interview potential members



Enabling Legislation<br/>Legal Requirements

- Open Meeting Laws
  - Ethics Laws

#### **Commission Members**

- Advertize for applicants
- Interview potential members
- Experience & Commitment



• Invite a council member to attend meetings and act as a liaison



- Invite a council member to attend meetings and act as a liaison
- Invite Planning Board to appoint a member to act as a liaison



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Relationships have to be nurtured and developed through engagement and cooperation . . . .

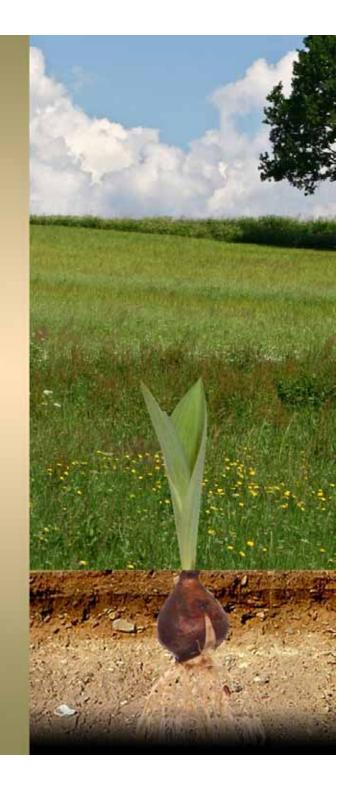


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Relationships have to be nurtured and developed through engagement and cooperation . . . .

... Rome wasn't built in a day!!





Watch Dog



- Watch Dog
- Create an Inventory



- Watch Dog
- Create an Inventory
  - Education



- Watch Dog
- Create an Inventory
  - Education
  - Advocacy



- Watch Dog
- Create an Inventory
  - Education
  - Advocacy
  - Planning



- Watch Dog
- Create an Inventory
  - Education
  - Advocacy
  - Planning
  - Open Space

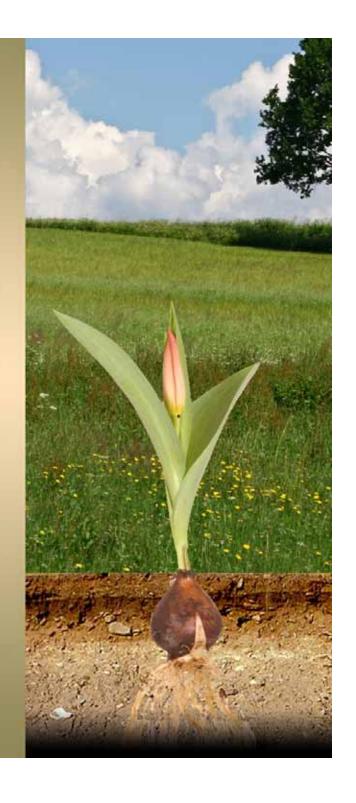


- Watch Dog
- Create an Inventory
  - Education
  - Advocacy
  - Planning
  - Open Space
  - Land Acquisition



- Watch Dog
- Create an Inventory
  - Education
  - Advocacy
  - Planning
  - Open Space
  - Land Acquisition
- Environmental Advocate





Positive



- Positive
- Constructive



- Positive
- Constructive
  - Informative



- Positive
- Constructive
  - Informative
- A Resource



- Positive
- Constructive
- Informative
- A Resource
  - Prepared



- Positive
- Constructive
- Informative
- A Resource
  - Prepared
  - Diplomatic



- Positive
- Constructive
- Informative
- A Resource
  - Prepared
  - Diplomatic
    - Realistic





• Unreasonable



- Unreasonable
  - Misinformed



- Unreasonable
  - Misinformed
    - Unsure



- Unreasonable
  - Misinformed
    - Unsure
    - WRONG!



- Unreasonable
  - Misinformed
    - Unsure
    - WRONG!
      - Invisible

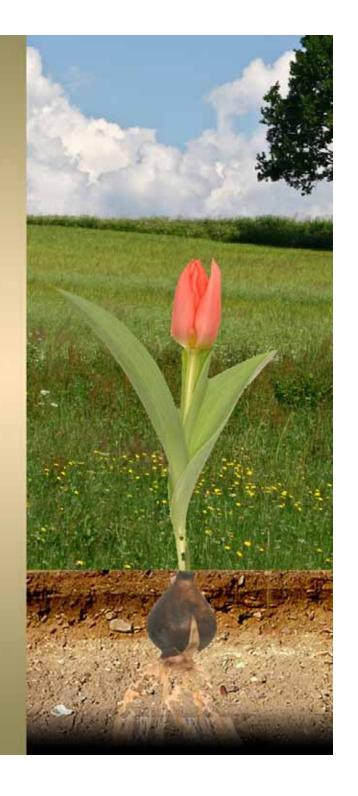


- Unreasonable
  - Misinformed
    - Unsure
    - WRONG!
      - Invisible
    - Dismissed



- Unreasonable
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    - Dismissed
  - Unprepared

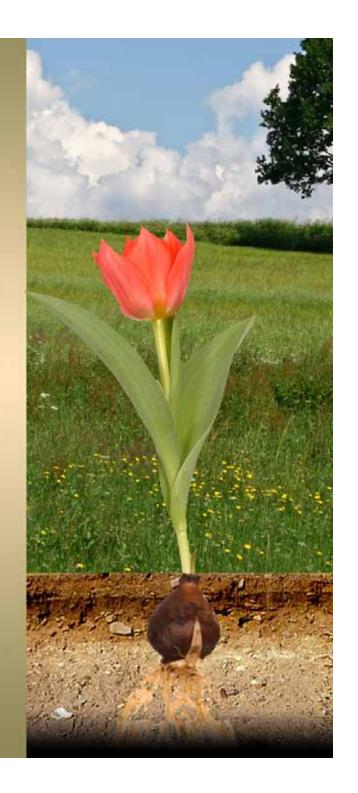




• Environmental Advocate



- Environmental Advocate
  - > Inventory



- Environmental Advocate
  - > Inventory
  - > Education



- Environmental Advocate
  - > Inventory
  - > Education
    - Recycling



- Environmental Advocate
  - > Inventory
  - > Education
    - Recycling
    - Water Protection



- Environmental Advocate
  - > Inventory
  - > Education
    - Recycling
    - Water Protection
    - Open Space



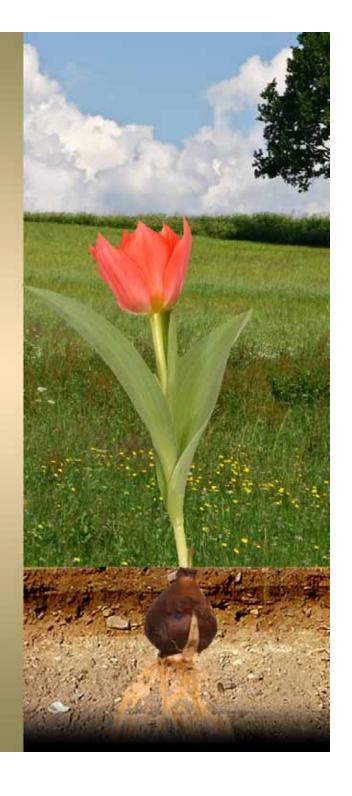
- Environmental Advocate
  - > Inventory
  - > Education
    - Recycling
    - Water Protection
    - Open Space
    - Conservation Development



- Environmental Advocate
  - > Inventory
  - > Education
    - Recycling
    - Water Protection
    - Open Space
    - ConservationDevelopment
    - Earth Day



# Watchdog



## Watchdog

• Eyes & ears of DEM & EPA



# Watchdog

- Eyes & ears of DEM & EPA
- Anonymous tip line



- > Watchdog
  - Eyes & ears of DEM & EPA
  - Anonymous tip line
  - Inspect conservation easements



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- Planning & Development



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- Planning & Development
  - Comprehensive Plan



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- Planning & Development
  - Comprehensive Plan
    - Resource protection



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- Planning & Development
  - Comprehensive Plan
    - Resource protection
    - Wetlands



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Arrange for a site visit



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- Talk to abutters (where applicable)



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- List positives & negatives



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- State fact ~ not opinion



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- Don't just point out a problem



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- Talk to abutters (where applicable)
- List positives & negatives
- Document with photos
- State fact ~ not opinion
- Be specific
- Don't just point out a problem
- 'Suggest' a solution





• Environmental Advocate



- Environmental Advocate
- Community Resource



- Environmental Advocate
- Community Resource
- Planning Partner



- Environmental Advocate
- Community Resource
- Planning Partner
- Watchdog



- Environmental Advocate
- Community Resource
- Planning Partner
- Watchdog

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Thank You

