

# Town of Hampden Newsletter –February 2018

## February Snow Event Reminders:

- *From the Highway Department:* Mark Langone, Highway Superintendent, writes in his **Storm Event Requests** section online\*, Do not shovel or blow snow from your driveway or sidewalk into the street. If you hire a plowing service, advise them not to push snow into the street or across the street in front of a neighboring property. Both are violations subject to fines.\*\*

-Do not drive unless absolutely necessary. If possible, wait a while to give our crews a chance to address the roadway...Clear snow for pedestrian traffic on sidewalks in front of your home within 24 hours of the storm ending...When you see a salt truck approaching you from the opposite direction, slow down and move away from the center of the road to avoid having salt hit your vehicle...When following a snow removal vehicle, please keep a safe distance away as trucks make sudden stops or turns.

**Winter Parking Ban\*\* is still in effect through April 15, 2018.** Per the December Police Log, Sat, 12/9: “#17-11826...’DPW called and requested vehicles to be removed...”

\* [hampden.org](http://hampden.org), Highway Department, *General Information*; \*\* *General Bylaws of Hampden*, Chap. VIII, Parking Ban, Sec 9 & Snow Plowing, Sec 10; at [hampden.org](http://hampden.org), Planning Department, Forms. Or purchase at the Town Clerk’s Office.

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## Volunteers needed for Personnel Committee, and Stormwater Committee

The Personnel Committee’s primary responsibility is to advise the Selectmen on proper personnel practices within the town. In the past, the committee reviewed the town employee handbook, made revisions of policies and recommended new policies for a revised handbook. The committee has also reviewed the classification system, and other pertinent areas. *The current committee needs additional members.*

The Selectmen prefer some experience in personnel; current experience would be appreciated.

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The Stormwater Committee is being revived. The former Committee served from 2003- 2009 and consisted of nine members: five residents, and a member each from the Board of Selectman, Planning Board, School Department, plus the Highway Superintendent. That committee accomplished many activities through the years: a five year Stormwater Management Program required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); reports to the Mass Department of Environmental Protection; drafted two Bylaws: Illicit Discharge , and an Erosion Control which were passed at different Town Meetings; sent out an educational mailing to residents plus more. The volunteers made “this program a success.” [Compiled from reports in 2003-2008 Hampden Annual Reports: quote from 2007.] In the *General Bylaws of Hampden*, refer to Chap.XIV - Stormwater Management and Chap. XIV(A)- Erosion and Sediment Control for Stormwater Management.

*Please send a letter of interest to the Selectmen’s Office, 625 Main St.*

Thanks go to Pam Courtney, Assistant to the Selectmen, for providing the cited committee reports for this.

*From Bonnie Geromini, Chairman of the Conservation Commission:*

The Hampden conservation commission administers the interests of the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act for the town of Hampden. The commission does not have authority outside of those zones defined as jurisdictional under the Act and Hampden Wetland Bylaws and Regulations.

The Mass. Wetland Protection Act (General laws chap. 131, s40; the Act) protects important water related lands such as wetlands (swamps, marshes, etc.), flood plains, riverfront areas and other areas from alteration. Most work proposed in these areas require a permit (known as an Order of Conditions) from the local conservation commission.

Regulations for the Act are issued by the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection along with the Town of Hampden Wetland Bylaws and Regulations. Applications for work in wetland resource areas covered by state and local wetland laws are usually processed together by the conservation commission.

Wetlands are lands that contain surface water all or part of the time as well as some adjacent land areas. Legally the term includes not only areas we think of as wetlands, but also intermittent streams, flood plains, and other areas that may be dry for a significant portion of the year. The Act specifically regulates activities in or near these areas.

In addition to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and floodplains, the Act also covers vernal pools, land under lakes and ponds and riverfront areas.

A buffer zone is the area of land within 100 feet of wetlands. Many activities done in a buffer zone are subject to regulation under the Act and require approval by the conservation commission. The town of Hampden Bylaw in addition requires a 25 foot buffer associated with any defined resource area.

Under the Act no one may remove, fill, dredge or alter any wetland, floodplain, bank, land under water, land within 200 feet of a perennial stream or river, without a permit from the conservation commission. The wetland values protected by the Act are flood control; storm damage protection; prevention of pollution; and protection of fisheries, shellfish, ground water, public and private water supply, and wildlife habitat.

The commission serves to consult with and facilitate compliance for residents of Hampden who are considering projects on their property that may fall within jurisdictional wetland areas. The Wetland Protection Act Regulations, policies, guidance documents, and other wetland related materials are available electronically on the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection website. The Town of Hampden Wetland Bylaw and Regulations are available for viewing at our office at the Town House. The office is open Monday thru Thursday 2-4 pm.

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*Questions? Comments? If so, please send an email to [selectmen@hampden.org](mailto:selectmen@hampden.org), or drop them a note.*

*Thanks to Hampden Engineering for providing the paper and printing for this one page newsletter.*

*"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller 1880-1968*

*Happy Valentine's Day! Four of our Presidents were born in February. – volunteer Editor Nancy R. Zebert*