

## **Annual Report of the Conservation Commission**

The Williamsburg Conservation Commission comprises James Wilson, Chairperson, Tom Hodgkins, Phil Skwira, Wilbur Loomis and Rob Stinson, Acting Secretary.

In 2006, The Conservation Commission held numerous site visits and hearings prior to acting on submittals of Requests for Determination, Notices of Intent, and Certificates of Completion. The Commission files of these proceedings are available for review upon request. The decisions of the Commission are also forwarded to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Commission members attended workshops and seminars during the year to further their knowledge of regulatory changes and best practices related to the protection of the town's wetlands and rivers.

The Commission's major responsibility is the administration of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (G.L. Ch. 131 §40) and the Rivers Protection Act (Ch. 268, Acts of 1996). Pursuant to that responsibility, the Commission reviews the designs and scope of activities within resource areas and their respective buffer zones, to ensure plans compliance with federal and state laws. The Town of Williamsburg does not have its own conservation by-law and adheres to the standards of the commonwealth.

If any town resident is planning any activity within 100 feet of a wetland or within 200 feet of a wetland or within 200 feet of a perennial stream or river, it is jurisdictional under the Wetlands Protection Act and those residents must contact the Conservation Commission before undertaking any work in those areas.

The Conservation Commission meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Questions for the Commission can be answered by commission members, or the commission secretary, Rob Stinson, or by leaving a message at 268-8416.