

Chapter 134. CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Chatham 7-13-1989 by L.L. No. 1-1989.]

Amendments noted where applicable.]

§ 134-1. Creation of Conservation Advisory Council.

The Town Board of the Town of Chatham, pursuant to the authority conferred upon it by § 51, subdivision 5, of the Town Law and § 239-x of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, hereby confirms the creation of the Town of Chatham Conservation Advisory Council ("Council") as set forth in creation of Local Law #1 of 1989, except as amended from time to time and set forth herein to advise the Town Board in the development, management and protection of the town's natural resources.

§ 134-2. Membership; term; vacancies.

The Council shall consist of seven members who shall be appointed by the Town Board. Of the seven members first appointed, three shall be appointed for one-year terms, and four shall be appointed for two-year terms. Two of the members may be between ages sixteen and twenty-one years of age, as ex officio members. Any resident, over age sixteen, of the Town of Chatham shall be eligible for appointment as a member or ex officio member, as the case may be, of the council. Vacancies shall be filled by the Town Board. The Town Board shall, at its annual organizational meeting, appoint the Chairman of the Council. The Town Board shall have the authority to remove any member of said council so appointed for cause, after a public hearing, if requested. A vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as an original appointment.

§ 134-3. Conduct of meetings.

The Council shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the conduct of its meetings. It shall appoint a recording secretary and keep accurate records of its meetings and activities and provide a copy of such records to the Town Board on a monthly basis.

§ 134-4. Powers and duties.

The Council shall have all of the powers and duties:

- (a) Conduct researches into the land area of the municipality for which it was created;
- (b) It may advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its work upon approval of the Town Board;
- (c) It shall keep an inventory and map as defined in section two hundred thirty-nine-y of this article, of all open areas within the municipality with the plan of obtaining information pertinent to proper utilization of such open lands including lands owned by the state, any other municipality with the state or by the particular municipality itself;
- (d) It shall keep an inventory and map of all open marsh lands, swamps and all other wet lands in a like manner, and may recommend to the governing body of the municipality a program for ecologically suitable utilization of all such areas;
- (e) It may, in carrying out its powers and duties and upon approval of the Town Board, request the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to:

- a. Prepare reports outlining objectives, priorities and proposed relationships of the council to the Town Board;
 - b. Prepare a description of work to be undertaken, advantageous techniques to be used and suggested roles of council members;
 - c. Provide research on conservation facts and procedures;
 - d. Provide, on a consulting basis, technical and research assistance as may be required to assist the council in carrying out its work and to enable the council to offer recommendations to the Town Board;
 - e. Describe particular areas of natural resources within the town which require particular attention by the Council.
- (f) It may accept by gift, grant, bequest, or otherwise, money or other personal property in the name of the municipality, for use in furtherance of the provisions herein and in accordance with the annual budget set by the Town Board.
- (g) In addition to the foregoing, carry out any other duties, tasks, or responsibilities, consistent with the objectives of this law, assigned to it by local law enacted by the Town Board.

§ 134-5. Annual report.

The Council shall submit an annual report to the Town Board, not later than the 31st day of December of each year, outlining its activities during the preceding year and containing such recommendations to the Town Board as the Council feels necessary or desirable.

§ 134-6 Compensation and expenses.

No member of the Council shall be compensated for his or her services hereunder, but the reasonable and necessary expenses of the Council may be incurred as a general town charge upon the taxable property of the town outside any incorporated village, to the extent of any appropriation that may be made therefore by the Town Board.

§ 134-7 Notification

Within thirty days following the establishment of the Council, written notification hereof shall be sent by the Town Board to the state commissioner of environmental conservation.