

Adopted on December 15, 2025 and Effective January 14, 2026

DIVISION 2. CONSERVATION COMMISSION¹

Sec. 2-76. Composition.

There shall be a conservation commission appointed by the town council consisting of nine (9) members, called conservation commissioners as authorized by 30-A M.R.S.A. §§ 3261–3263. The terms of office initially shall be one (1), two (2) and three (3) years, such that the terms of approximately one-third of the members shall expire each year. Any commissioner now serving a term greater than three (3) years may serve until that term expires. The appointment of his or her successor to that term shall be for a term of three (3) years. A town council member may not be a conservation commissioner.

The town council may appoint a secondary or post-secondary student as a non-voting member of the conservation commission. The student may serve an annual term from July to June and may be reappointed but may not serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms.

The Town Council Chair may appoint one (1) ex-officio, non-voting member from members of the Town Council to improve communication and information exchange.

(Ord. of 4-18-17(1); Ord. of 10-2-23)

Sec. 2-77. Purpose.

The conservation commission shall serve the Brunswick community by advocating for conservation values and stewarding our ecologically rich natural communities and open spaces.

(Ord. of 4-18-17(1))

Sec. 2-78. Authority.

The commission will exercise its authority and duties in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations and in accordance with the provisions of the Town of Brunswick ordinances.

(Ord. of 4-18-17(1))

Sec. 2-79. Qualifications.

Conservation commission candidates shall be interviewed by town council appointments committee prior to their approval to determine if they meet the basic interests in conservation and can contribute to the commission's mission.

(Ord. of 4-18-17(1))

¹Editor's note(s)—Ordinances adopted on April 18, 2017, amended Div. 2 in its entirety to read as herein set out.

Former Div. 2, §§ 2-76—2-84, pertained to similar subject matter and derived from an ordinance adopted on October 3, 1988.

Cross reference(s)—Marine activities, structures and ways, Ch. 11; shellfishing, § 11-71 et seq.; streets, sidewalks and other public places, Ch. 14; parks and recreation areas, § 14-96 et seq.; zoning, App. A.

State law reference(s)—Conservation commission, 30-A M.R.S.A. § 3261.

Sec. 2-80. Organization.

Members shall annually elect from their membership a chairperson and vice chairperson. All conservation commission meetings shall be open to the public and shall provide notice of scheduled meetings. Minutes of all meetings shall be kept.

(Ord. of 4-18-17(1))

Sec. 2-81. Powers and duties.

The conservation commission:

- (1) Shall keep records of its meeting and activities along with an annual town report;
- (2) Shall conduct research along with the planning board on town land areas;
- (3) Shall coordinate activities with other organized conservation groups with common interests;
- (4) Shall keep an index of all open areas or natural resources within the town, either publicly or privately owned; "open areas" and natural resources shall include:
 - a. Blocks of undeveloped natural areas;
 - b. Land surrounding natural streams, rivers, or water bodies;
 - c. Swamps, wetlands, or tidal marshes;
 - d. Coastal waterfront lands;
 - e. Public parks and passive or active recreation areas;
 - f. Forested land blocks;
 - g. Wildlife habitat blocks, or mapped special habitats;
 - h. Natural areas that include scenic, historic, or archaeological resources.
- (5) May recommend to the town council, or any other board of the town, or any public agency, recommendations or policies for better protection, maintenance or restoration of trees and tree canopy, wildlife habitat, natural areas, open space or other conservation lands;
- (6) Shall undertake any other conservation or environmental activity related to the Commission's recommendations and/or as directed by the town council, including such activities as the annual celebration of Arbor Day;
- (7) May advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, plans, charts as needed and as resources available;
- (8) May recommend professional services to the town council necessary to perform its duties;
- (9) May recommend to the town council the disposition of all or any real property interests held on its behalf; and
- (10) May, with the approval of the town council, receive gifts in the name of the town for any of its purposes, and shall administer the same for such purposes subject to the terms of the gift.

(Ord. of 4-18-17(1))

State law reference(s)—Similar provisions, 30-A M.R.S.A. § 3261(2), (3).

Secs. 2-82—2-100. Reserved.