



**2020 ANNUAL BOARD/COMMISSION REPORT TO THE CITY CLERK
PURSUANT TO CITY OF MALDEN ORDINANCE 1.7**

I. Preliminary Information

Name of Board or Commission:	Conservation Commission
Name of Chair:	Isaac Slavitt
Name of Clerk:	Ryan Roseen
Number of Members:	7
No. of meetings held per year:	Up to 20
Explain how Board/Commission has fulfilled functions in the past year:	The Commission has met the requirements of the MA Wetlands Protection Act by acting on incoming Notices of Intent (NOIs).

Please list Members' names, addresses, date of appointment and when term expires: (attach additional sheets if necessary)

NAME & ADDRESS	APPOINTMENT DATE	TERM EXPIRES
George Laskey	September 2, 1985	Sept. 15, 2020
Ken Mazonson	March 14, 2011	October 1, 2021
Paul Buckley	March 14, 2011	October 1, 2021
Khalil Kaba	September 6, 2019	February 7, 2021
Isaac Slavitt	September 6, 2019	September 15, 2020
Kirk Zmijewski	March 12, 2020	February 13, 2021
Matthew Burne	March 12, 2020	October 1, 2021

2. Overview of Board/Commission

Please issue a **brief** statement about the general purpose and mission of this Commission.

The Commission carries out the requirements of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, G.L. c.131 §40 and the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations, 310 CMR 10.00 within the City of Malden. The Commission’s most common responsibility involves holding public hearings on incoming Notices of Intent (NOIs) or Requests for Determination of Applicability (RDAs), but the Commission also has responsibility to follow up on reports of Wetlands Protection Act violations and a number of other statutory and regulatory duties.

3. REVENUE: Please list the revenue(s) coming into this Board/ Commission. **NOT APPLICABLE**



From City Budget	\$5,600
From State Budget	—
From Federal Budget	—
Grant Monies	—
Licenses/Fees	—
Other	—

4. EXPENDITURES: Please list the expenditures of this Board/Commission. **NOT APPLICABLE**

Category	Amount	Notes
Personnel Costs	\$10,500	Commissioners each receive \$1,000/year stipend Clerk is a part time City employee at \$3,500/year
Equipment Costs	—	
Postal Costs	≤\$50	Official correspondence
Leasing Costs	—	
Other	\$574	Annual membership to Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC)

5. ASSETS: Please list all major assets under the control of this Board/Commission. *(Please include materials, tools, vehicles, equipment and property on hand as of 12/31/19.)*

NOT APPLICABLE

Asset	Value

6. PROGRAMS: Please list all programs under the direction of this Board/Commission. (Please detail where and how these programs originate, i.e. statutory, internal, etc.)

NOT APPLICABLE

Program	Description
The MA Wetlands Protection Act and associated regulations	<i>MGL Chapter 131 Sec 40 and 310 CMR 10.00</i>
Conservation Commission (ConCom) designates one member to serve on the Community Preservation Committee (CPC)	<i>Per Malden ordinance.</i>

7. **CHALLENGES:** Provide a brief description of three challenges this Board/Commission faces.

1.	Many residents and companies doing business in the City are not aware of the legal requirement to request approval for work in protected areas. Some residents may not even be aware of protected areas on or near their property. It is not uncommon for unauthorized work to be done without going through the Commission, and then for the Commission to learn about this work after the fact.
2.	The Conservation Commission has limited enforcement tools at its disposal when the Wetlands Protection Act is being violated or when the proper application process has been circumvented. While state law provides for enforcement by initiation of civil or criminal actions in court, these options are often impractical for the kind of infractions that the Commission is called upon to address.
3.	The Commission has a recordkeeping and administrative burden that is a challenge given the available staff support (currently one part time clerk). Many towns and cities in the Commonwealth choose to hire a full time wetlands scientist or conservation agent to deal with the daily administration of responsibilities placed on the ConCom. While Malden has many fewer wetlands than a rural or coastal town, we do have the Malden River and we expect that the number and complexity of matters before the Commission will continue to increase, particularly as we expand outreach efforts and enforcement actions.

8. **GOALS:** Describe three goals this Board/Commission has for the year ahead.

1.	Advocate for and support the City Council's ongoing efforts to draft a Malden bylaw based on MACC's model wetlands ordinance. Based on extensive research by the MACC and proven successes in other towns and cities, we believe that such a bylaw would (1) give greater clarity to residents, applicants, and companies in the City on their duties and responsibilities, (2) establish clear timelines and requirements for applications, (3) institute certain environmental protections over and above the statutory minimum, (4) give the Commission more practical enforcement tools such as City-level fines, and (5) allow full time City employees who are in code enforcement roles to assist the Commission in enforcement.
2.	Modernize the Commission's recordkeeping practices, to include the adoption of docket management software and keeping more of the Commission's records in a shared location accessible to Commissioners for collaboration and review.
3.	Continue to engage and educate our neighbors about the Wetlands Protection Act and their Conservation Commission. Post more digital versions of applications on the Commission webpage for public inspection and comment.



ISAAC SLAVITT
Acting Chair
June 25, 2020