

## **Chapter 14**

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

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**[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Patterson 6-12-74 as L.L. No. 1-1974, effective 7-1-74. (readopted 4-13-2005 by L.L. No. 9-2005) Amendments noted where applicable.]**

### **GENERAL REFERENCES**

**Dumps and dumping - See Ch. 79**

**Flood damage prevention - See Ch. 91**

**Soil Erosion and sediment control - See Ch. 133**

**Subdivision - See Ch. 138**

**Zoning - See Ch. 154**

#### **§ 14-1. Legislative intent.**

The preservation and improvement of the quality of the natural and man-made environment within the Town of Patterson, in the face of population growth, urbanization and technologic change with their accompanying demands on natural resources, are found to be of increasing and vital importance to the health, welfare and economic well-being of present and future inhabitants and require forthright action by the governing body of the Town of Patterson. It is recognized that the biologic integrity of the natural environment on which man is dependent for survival and the natural and functional beauty of our surroundings which condition the quality of our life experience cannot be protected without the full cooperation and participation of all the people of the town working in partnership with local and state officials and with various public and private institutions, agencies and organizations. Establishment of a commission for conservation of the environment is a necessary step in fostering unified action on environmental problems.

#### **§ 14-2. Establishment of Commission. [Amended 2-8-89 by L.L No. 3-1989]**

The Town Board of the Town of Patterson hereby creates a commission which shall be known as the "Environmental Conservation Commission of the Town of Patterson," hereinafter called the "Commission."

#### **§ 14-3. Membership; vacancies. [Amended 12-29-77 by L.L. No. 5-1977]**

A. The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members, of which seven (7) shall be appointed by the Town Board and who shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Board for a period of two (2) years or as otherwise provided herein, with such terms to expire on December 31 of such year. Of the members first appointed to the Commission, three (3) shall hold the office for a term of one (1) year and four (4) shall hold the office for a term of two (2) years from and after their appointment. Their successors shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years from and after the expiration of the terms of their predecessors in office. Persons residing within the Town of Patterson who are interested in improvement and preservation of the environmental quality shall be eligible for appointment as members of the Commission; however, no more than two (2) members of the Commission may be between the ages of sixteen (16) years of age and twenty-one (21) years of age. It is the intention of the Town Board to encourage membership and representation on this Commission among the youth of our community.

B. Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, except that a vacancy occurring other than by the expiration of a term of office shall be filled only for the remainder of the unexpired term of office.

#### **§ 14-4 Officers; rules of procedure.**

The Town Board shall designate a member of the Commission to act as Chairman thereof. At the first meeting of the Commission, its members shall elect from among themselves a Recording Secretary. The Commission shall adopt rules and procedures for its meetings. It shall keep accurate

records of its meetings and activities and shall file a semiannual report as provided in § 14-6.

**§ 14-5. Powers and duties.**

The powers and duties of the Commission shall be to:

- A. Advise the Town Board on matters affecting the preservation, development and use of the natural and man-made features and conditions of the Town of Patterson insofar as beauty, quality, biologic integrity and other environmental factors are concerned and, in the case of man's activities and developments, with regard to any major threats posed to environmental quality, so as to enhance the long-range value of the environment to the people of the town.
- B. Develop and, after receiving general approval by resolution of the Town Board, conduct a program of public information in the community which shall be designed to foster increased understanding of the nature of environmental problems and issues and support for their solutions.
- C. Conduct studies, surveys and inventories of the natural and man-made features within the Town of Patterson and such other studies and surveys as may be necessary to carry out the general purposes of this chapter.
- D. Maintain an up-to-date inventory or index of all open spaces in public or private ownership within the municipality, including but not limited to natural landmarks, glacial and other geomorphic or physiographic features; streams and their floodplains, swamps, marshlands and other wetlands; unique biotic communities; scenic and other open areas of natural or ecological value; and of the ownership, present use and proposed use of such open areas, so as to provide a base of information for recommendations by the Commission for their preservation and/or use.
- E. Seek to coordinate, assist and unify the efforts of private groups, institutions and individuals within the Town of Patterson in accord with the purposes of this chapter.
- F. Maintain liaison and communications with public and private agencies and organizations of local, state and national scope whose programs and activities have an impact on the quality of the environment or who can be of assistance to the Commission.
- G. Working in cooperation with the Planning Board, recommend from time to time to the Town Board features, plans and programs relating to environmental improvement for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Patterson and, similarly, recommend to the Town Board appropriate and desirable changes in existing local laws and ordinances relating to environmental control or recommend new local laws and ordinances.<sup>1</sup>
- H. Prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts and pamphlets in accord with the purposes

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<sup>1</sup> Edition's Note: Amended at time of adoption of Code (see Ch.1, General Provisions, Article I).

of this chapter.

I. Obtain and maintain in orderly fashion maps, reports, books and other publications to support the necessary researches of the Commission into local environmental conditions.

J. When authorized by resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Patterson, accept by gift, grant, devise, bequest or otherwise property, both real and personal, in the name of the Town of Patterson, as may be necessary to conserve and otherwise properly utilize open spaces and other land and water resources within the boundaries of the Town of Patterson. Such real property may be accepted in fee for land and water rights, or as any lesser interest, development right, easement, including conservation easement, covenant or other contractual right, including conveyance with limitations or reversions.

K. Carry out such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Town Board.

#### **§ 14-6. Reports.**

The Commission shall submit a semiannual report to the Town Board not later than the first day of April and October of each year, concerning the activities and work of the Commission, and from time to time shall submit such reports and recommendations as may be necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter.

#### **§ 14-7. Compensation and reimbursement of expenses; budget. [Amended 12-30-1991 by LL No. 8-1991]**

The Town Board may, by resolution, provide for compensation to be paid to the Chairman and/or other members of the Commission. The members of the Commission shall be reimbursed for expenses actually and necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties within the appropriations made available therefor. The Commission shall submit an annual proposed budget request in the manner prescribed by the Town Board.

#### **§ 14-8. Interpretation.**

This chapter shall be deemed an exercise of the powers of the Town of Patterson to preserve and improve the quality of the natural and man-made environment on behalf of the present and future inhabitants thereof. This chapter is not intended and shall not be deemed to impair the powers of any other public corporation.