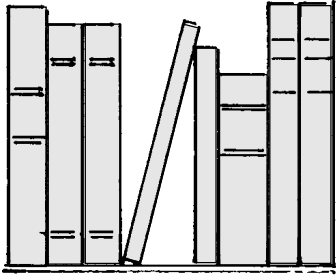


# RESOURCE PAPER



## anjec

ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSIONS

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# Municipal Environmental Commissions in New Jersey

For over 40 years municipal environmental commissions, as advisory bodies to local government, have been providing the expertise and information needed to address today's complex environmental issues. Environmental commissions are local environmental advocates involved in a variety of activities. They can:

- investigate environmental, natural resource and energy issues for the governing body;
- improve local decision-making by integrating environmental policies into local plans and projects;
- help local boards understand the environmental consequences of their decisions;
- help explain to other local officials and residents the programs and regulations of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), and communicate local concerns to the NJDEP.

As advocates for the public interest, environmental commissions have an important role in municipal government.



B. PRETZ

## Enabling Legislation

In 1968, the New Jersey Legislature passed a law that authorized municipalities to set up conservation commissions patterned after those established in several New England states. The law made commissions advisory bodies on natural resource planning and protection as well as open space issues.

Subsequent amendments have expanded environmental commission responsibilities to include other environmental matters such as pollution prevention and control, solid waste management and noise control, and to allow the establishment of joint commissions by two or more municipalities. To reflect these increased responsibilities, the Legislature changed the name in 1972 from conservation commission to environmental commission. (See page 7 for the complete text of the enabling legislation and model ordinance.)

State law allows a municipality to pass an ordinance establishing an environmental commission, giving it legal status as an official arm of local government. A legally constituted commission is eligible to receive funds through local, state and federal budgets. It cannot be abolished without the governing body passing another ordinance repealing the ordinance that set up the commission. This process would include publishing the title and summary of the proposed repeal ordinance in the local newspaper and holding a public hearing on the subject.

The enabling legislation allows commissions to pursue a broad range of activities:

- compile an index of all open areas, and make recommendations for the planning and use of the open land;
- acquire property, including easements, in the name of the municipality;
- “study and make recommendations concerning land use, open space preservation, water resources management, air pollution control, solid waste management, noise control, soil and landscape protection, environmental appearance, marine resources and protection of flora and fauna.”

## Environmental Commission Membership

An environmental commission consists of five to seven members and may include two alternate members who vote in the absence of regular members. The mayor appoints the members and the chair of the commission. Members are unsalaried, serve for terms of three years and must reside in the municipality. One commission member must also be a member of the planning board.

Several municipalities have gone beyond the provisions of the enabling legislation to establish other categories of commission membership. Many have non-voting associate members or advisors with specific expertise, or student members who work on special projects.

## Role of Environmental Commissions

As advisors to the planning board and other municipal agencies, environmental commissions are local environmental advocates representing the public and its long-term interests.

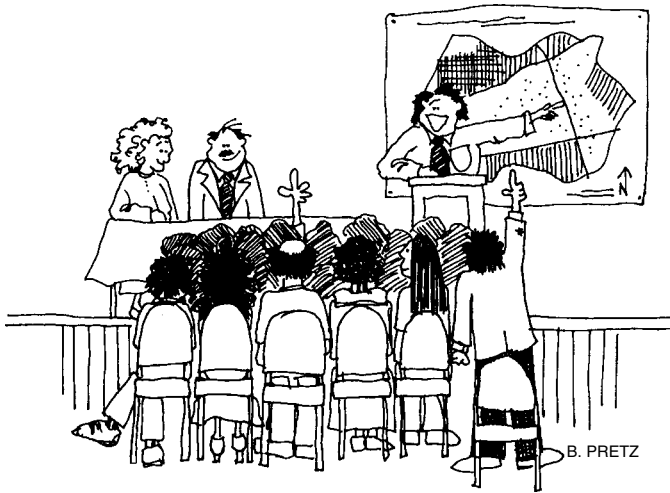
Environmental commissions:

- advise municipal planning boards and zoning boards of adjustment about the impacts of proposals for development on issues including flooding and runoff, open space needs, water and air quality, plant and animal habitat and waste disposal;
- advocate planned open space preservation at the municipal level;
- investigate environmental problems and offer solutions;
- research and propose ordinances on a variety of topics, such as tree removal, stormwater management, open space preservation and pesticides;
- educate and inform the community on the importance of conserving natural resources and protecting the environment;
- interact with neighboring commissions, watershed groups, government agencies and non-government organizations to tackle regional and statewide problems;
- help monitor and explain to other local officials and citizens the state and federal programs and regulations intended to combat problems with toxics, solid waste disposal, unhealthy air, contaminated water and wetlands protection;
- work with municipal green teams to address sustainability issues;
- promote recycling and solid waste reduction.

## Saving Municipal Dollars

Environmental commissions provide long-range solutions to environmental problems, developing programs that result in both immediate and long-term financial benefit, indirect savings, protection of real estate values, and protection of public health.





Environmental commissions have:

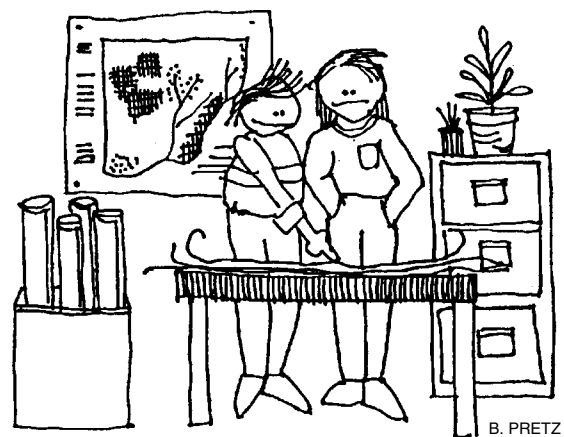
- carried out citizen-staffed studies that would otherwise have been contracted to consultants at greater cost (or remained undone);
- obtained funding from a variety of sources including ANJEC's Sustainable Land Use Grants, for studies and projects that otherwise the municipality would have to finance;
- undertaken public health projects to supplement the working knowledge and budgets of municipal health departments;
- took the lead in planning electronic waste recycling events, reducing dumping fees and earning recycling revenue;
- played critical roles in obtaining Green Acres funding for recreation, resource protection and open space purposes, thus helping to maintain real estate and other values in surrounding areas;
- led initiatives to reduce energy expenditures in municipal buildings, vehicle fleets and street lighting;
- averted future cleanup problems by establishing used oil recycling, water quality surveillance and other programs;
- researched and written drafts of ordinances, saving consultant fees;
- addressed land use issues in the planning stage to avoid future public and private expense for infrastructure to control problems such as flooding or erosion.

## The Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI)

One of the most important tasks of an environmental commission is to prepare an Environmental Resource Inventory (also called Natural Resource Inventory). A typical inventory includes maps and text containing information on the municipality's geology, climate, soils, surface and ground water resources, vegetation, wildlife, air and water quality, waste disposal and discharge sites and historic resources. The Environmental Resource Inventory gives the municipality an understanding of the capacity and limitations of its natural resources as well as built infrastructure, such as sewers and roads. It provides factual data to guide the town's master plan and justify protection ordinances. It also becomes the basis for the environmental commission's analysis and recommendations concerning the impact of land use and other decisions on local and regional resources. (For more information, see the "Environmental Resource Inventory" Resource Paper available from ANJEC.)

## Budget

Environmental commissions operate on budgets ranging from zero to thousands of dollars. The typical commission has an operating budget of at least \$500, with additional amounts for special projects such as environmental resource inventories. Sufficient funds for the training and education of commission members and purchase of selected resource materials will benefit a municipality in the long run. (For information call ANJEC at 973-539-7547.)



## Environmental Commissions at Work – Some Examples

An environmental commission is essentially what each town makes it. The Legislature purposely made the range of commission activities broad. A commission's power depends on the quality and dedication of its members and their ability to influence the actions of local government and citizens.

### Education and outreach

“Greenable Woodbridge” is an effort to involve the entire community in taking responsibility for creating an energy efficient present and future. The **Woodbridge Environmental Commission** engaged businesses, volunteers and Township employees in a partnership effort to accomplish a number of activities: a “Greenable Woodbridge” guide on the Township website, a 20-page “Green News” edition of the *Woodbridge News*, organizing a series of public outreach programs for businesses, students and residents, and coordinating with a special School District Green Team to implement sustainability in the schools, with green teams operating in each of the district's 24 elementary, middle and high schools.

### Green team leadership

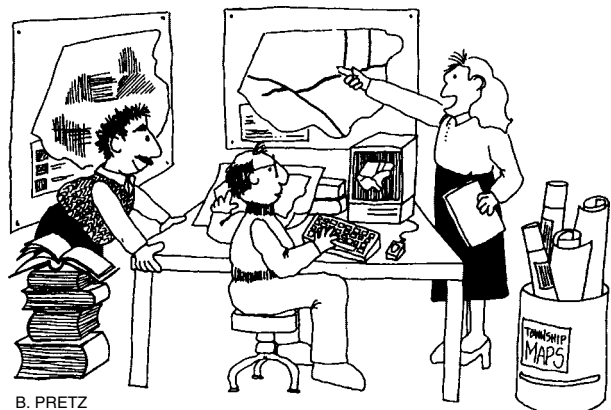
**Summit's Environmental Commission** coordinates the efforts of the city's green team, which won Sustainable Jersey's Sustainability Champion award for its achievements as a mid-sized municipality (population of 5,000-50,000) in 2009. Among the Commission's first sustainability initiatives was compiling the *Action Plan for a Sustainable Summit*. It lists “Priority Action Steps” to reduce carbon dioxide emission and the cost to implement them. Student volunteer interns were a key part in mapping the City's carbon footprint, which provided critical information for future municipal environmental planning and savings analysis. The Commission conducted a town-wide survey to determine the level of community support for various sustainability measures. The project brought together city staff, elected officials and volunteers representing a broad cross-section of the community, from the youngest citizens in the primary school system to college-age residents and adults.

### Pesticide reduction

After investigation by the **Joint Princeton Environmental Commission** and the Princeton Regional Health Commission, Princeton Borough and Township both adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policies. The Township adopted an ordinance governing the development and maintenance of golf courses, which requires vegetated buffers between chemically treated turf areas and any stream to protect the stream from chemical runoff. The ordinance also requires developers to submit an Integrated Turf Management Plan as well as an IPM Plan for the proposed golf course and to monitor and report to the Township on any adverse impacts of chemical use on ground and surface water. The Joint Princeton Environmental Commission's web page also actively promotes lawn care without chemicals, an important element of IPM.

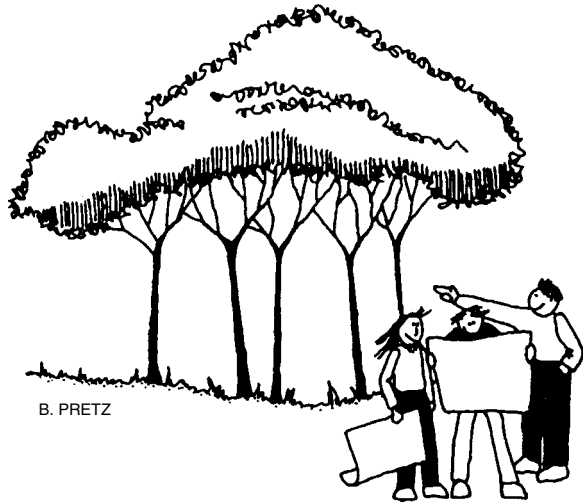
### Preserving habitat and protecting threatened and endangered species

To protect the environmentally sensitive community of **Millstone Township** (at the headwaters of the Assunpink with extensive wetlands), the Environmental Commission undertook, with the support of the Township Committee, a mission to protect the local threatened and endangered species and their habitats. The Commission spent three years researching the areas and ways to protect them. With advice from their consultant, they developed an ordinance that strictly protects the T and E habitat, and that the Township Committee unanimously passed in 2010.



## Promoting and protecting open space

The **Voorhees Environmental Commission** observed that many of the 140 Township-owned open land parcels were not being utilized or appreciated due to a lack of public awareness, access or maintenance. The Commission worked with a consultant to inventory, map, inspect and assess the town's open spaces. They recommended 150 neighborhood-centered enhancement projects, including improved parking; removal of fallen trees; informational signage and outreach; low-impact activity facilities suitable for the underserved senior population; trails and bike pathway connections to encourage physical activity; non-motorized transportation; and suggestions for corporate and volunteer support for the town's open space network.



## Site plan review

Based on its experience reviewing and commenting on development applications, the **Long Hill Township Environmental Commission** saw a need for a standard advisory document that would help applicants understand and address common environmental issues before getting to the Planning or Zoning Board review stage. The Commission developed a checklist that explains common issues that arise during review, such as stormwater runoff, steep slopes, wetlands, flooding, and plant/animal habitat. The handout offers suggestions on Best Management Practices, including reduction of impervious cover, planting of native species and elimination of curbing. The checklist is now part of the packet applicants receive at the start of a building project.

Attention to detail in reviewing development proposals has helped the **Bordentown City Environmental Commission** catch significant discrepancies in site plans. In one case, the Planning Board had already granted conditional approval for a subdivision, and NJDEP's preliminary Letter of Interpretation (LOI) indicated no presence of freshwater wetlands despite the presence of tidal wetlands adjacent to the property. After scouting the site and noting hydric soils and wetland vegetation, the Commission asked NJDEP to revisit their findings and take soil borings, which proved the presence of wetlands. As a result, NJDEP's final LOI required a 150-foot buffer, reducing the site's developable area to a single lot.

In another instance, the Bordentown Commission discovered and pointed out a significant discrepancy between a site plan submitted to the Planning Board and what had been sent to NJDEP showing a building footprint that appeared to satisfy a buffer requirement. Although the developer had already clear cut over 40 trees by that time, the Planning Board ultimately denied the application and the city later purchased the property for open space.

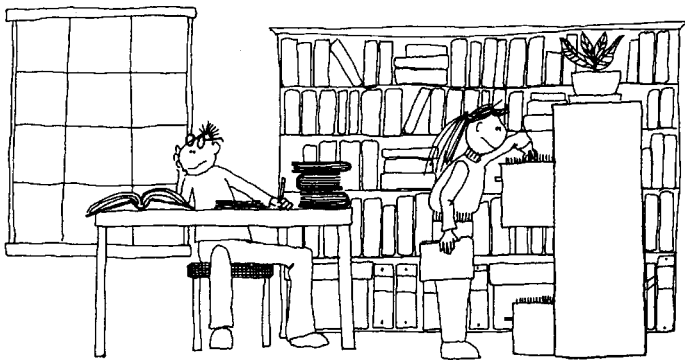
## Stormwater management and education

The **Westville Environmental Commission** decided to use two of their previous construction projects, a rain garden and a butterfly garden in a well-visited park, to encourage residents to create stormwater conservation projects in their own backyards. The Commission hosted a Rutgers Rain Garden Seminar, with free starter plants for the 22 attendees, and a butterfly garden seminar. Another 80 people heard talks on the rain and butterfly gardens as part of the Woodbury House and Garden Tour. The Commission also worked with county park and public works staff to correct severe stream erosion problems along the butterfly garden. Corrective action included establishing a five-foot no-mow zone and stabilization of the bank with Coir logs planted with native plants. The Commission funded the plantings and provided labor to secure the plants in the logs.

Under the leadership of the **Cape May Point Environmental Commission**, the site of a neglected historical monument that had become an eyesore and embarrassment was transformed into a pocket park and rain garden that now

attracts garden and butterfly tours. The Commission recruited volunteers to plan the Triangle Park Rain Garden and raised funds to plant and maintain it. In the process, they had to remove a large concrete pad. The rain garden features a solar-powered bird fountain, a donated boat transformed into a planter, and many species of native plants that provide food and habitat for wildlife and local and migratory birds. The rain garden won the town's 2010 Community Service Award.

The **Berkeley Heights Environmental Commission** produced a 30-minute Stormwater Basics video to help meet NJDEP educational requirements. Aired three times a week in August and September 2006 on the local community access channel's "Spotlight on Berkeley Heights" program, the video covers: the need to protect water; the importance of local watersheds; how to reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff on local properties; and the key role of trees to absorb excess nutrients and other pollutants, anchor the soil to reduce erosion and diminish economic loss from flooding.



B. PRETZ

## Education and Training for Environmental Commissioners

For environmental commissions to be effective advocates, members need to be informed about a broad range of environmental laws, programs and technical information. Established in 1969, the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions is a statewide, nonprofit membership organization. It offers professional guidance, research, training and technical support to environmental commissions, local officials and interested citizens.

ANJEC members receive the following benefits and services:

- The *ANJEC Report*, a quarterly magazine with practical articles on current environmental subjects, news about special projects, book reviews and information on what environmental commissions around the state are doing;
- The ANJEC Resource Center, an expansive environmental reference library that includes a digital database of more than 1,000 sample ordinances, hundreds of sample plans and ERIs, as well as books, research studies, federal and state regulations and files on myriad environmental topics. The ANJEC Resource Center staff handles thousands of inquiries each year, providing answers, researching issues and offering assistance and referrals;
- ANJEC courses, workshops and webinars that train commissioners on the tools and techniques for preserving natural resources and protecting environmental quality. The environmental commissioners' course is offered annually;
- The annual Environmental Congress, a statewide gathering of environmental commissions, activists, government officials and interested citizens. The day-long event offers speakers, workshops, exhibits and environmental achievement awards;
- A 20 percent discount on ANJEC environmental publications and free copies of all new fact sheets and publications;
- The ANJEC web site ([www.anjec.org](http://www.anjec.org)), New Jersey's premier source for information, tools, publications and resources to help municipalities protect the environment and foster sustainable land use. From current issues to upcoming events, presentations to toolkits, the ANJEC Web site offers valuable content that attracts about 14,000 visitors each month.

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ENABLING LEGISLATION

## STATE LEGISLATION

N.J.S.A. 40:56A; originally passed 1968; amended 1972, 1975, 1989

### *Section*

- 40:56A-1 Commission; appointment; term; vacancies.
- 40:56A-2 Powers of commission.
- 40:56A-3 Acquisitions by commission.
- 40:56A-4 Records and annual report.
- 40:56A-5 Appropriations.
- 40:56A-6 Studies and recommendations.
- 40:56A-7 Conservation Commission as environmental commission.
- 40:56A-8 Joint environmental commission; creation by ordinance; members; compensation.
- 40:56A-9 Chairman; qualification; term in office.
- 40:56A-10 Expenses; appointment; appropriation.
- 40:56A-11 Functions; duties and powers.
- 40:56A-12 Succession of established commission by joint commission; transfers.

### **40:56A-1 COMMISSION; APPOINTMENT; TERM; VACANCIES**

The governing body of any municipality may by ordinance establish an environmental commission for the protection, development or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within its territorial limits. The commission shall consist of not less than five nor more than seven members, appointed by the mayor of the municipality, one of whom shall be a member of the municipal planning board and all of whom shall be residents of the municipality; the members shall serve without compensation except as hereafter provided.

The mayor of the municipality shall designate one of the members to serve as chairman and presiding officer of the commission. The terms of office for the first commissioners shall be for 1, 2 or 3 years, to be designated by the mayor in making his appointments so that the terms of approximately 1/3 of the members will expire each year, and their successors shall be appointed for terms of 3 years and until the appointment and qualification of their successors.

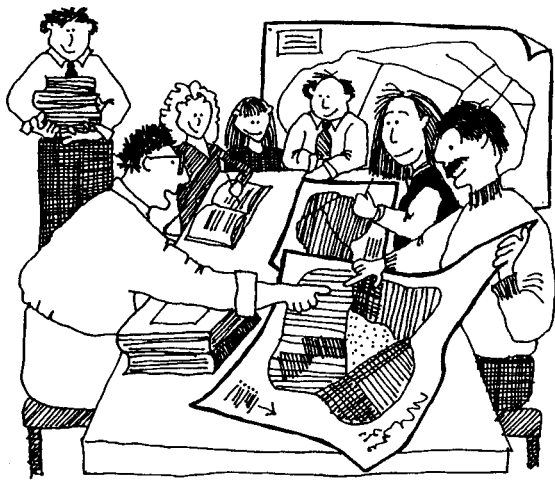
The mayor or governing body of the municipality may remove any member of the commission for cause, on written charges served upon the mem-

ber and after a hearing thereon at which the member shall be entitled to be heard in person or by counsel. A vacancy on the commission occurring otherwise than by expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as an original appointment.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law to the contrary, the powers of appointment and removal hereby accorded to the mayor of a municipality shall be vested in the elected official so designated or, where there is a vacancy in the office of mayor, on the duly designated acting mayor.

The governing body may, by ordinance, provide for the appointment of not more than two alternate members. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law or charter heretofore adopted, the ordinance shall provide the methods of appointment of alternate members. Alternate members shall be designated at the time of appointment by the authority appointing them as "Alternate No. 1" and "Alternate No. 2."

The terms of the alternate members shall be for two years, except the terms of the alternate members first appointed shall be two years for Alternate No. 1 and one year for Alternate No. 2



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so that the term of not more than one alternate member shall expire in any one year. A vacancy occurring otherwise than by expiration of term shall be filled by the appointing authority for the unexpired term only.

An alternate member shall not be permitted to act on any matter in which he has either directly or indirectly any personal or financial interest. An alternate member may, after public hearing if he requests one, be removed by the governing body for cause. An alternate member may participate in discussions of the proceedings but may not vote except in the absence or disqualification of a regular member. A vote shall not be delayed in order that a regular member may vote instead of an alternate member. In the event that a choice must be made as to which alternate member is to vote, Alternate No. 1 shall vote first.

#### **40:56A-2 POWERS OF COMMISSION**

An environmental commission organized under this act shall have power to conduct research into the use and possible use of the open land areas of the municipality and may coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its purposes. It shall keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marshland, swamps and other wetlands, in order to obtain information on the proper use of such areas, and may from time to time recommend to the planning board or, if none, to the mayor and governing body of the municipality plans and programs for inclusion in a municipal master plan and the development and use of such areas.

#### **40:56A-3 ACQUISITIONS BY COMMISSION**

An environmental commission may, subject to the approval of the governing body, acquire property, both real and personal, in the name of the municipality by gift, purchase, grant, bequest, devise or lease for any of its purposes and shall administer the same for such purposes subject to the terms of the conveyance or gift. Such an acquisition may be to acquire the fee or any lesser interest, development right, easement (including conservation easement), covenant or other contractual right (including a conveyance on conditions or with limitations or reversions), as may be necessary to acquire, maintain, improve, protect, limit the future use of, or otherwise conserve and properly utilize open spaces and other land and water areas in the municipality.

#### **40:56A-4 RECORDS AND ANNUAL REPORT**

An environmental commission shall keep records of its meetings and activities and shall make an annual report to the governing body of the municipality.

#### **40:56A-5 APPROPRIATION**

The governing body of a municipality may appropriate funds for the expenses incurred by the environmental commission. The commission may appoint such clerks and other employees as it may from time to time require and as shall be within the limits of funds appropriated to it.

#### **40:56A-6 STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

An environmental commission shall have power to study and make recommendations concerning open space preservation, water resource management, air pollution control, solid waste management, noise control, soil and landscape protection, environmental appearance, marine resources and protection of flora and fauna.

#### **40:56A-7 CONSERVATION COMMISSION AS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

Any conservation commission established pursuant to this act shall be an environmental commission.

#### **40:56A.8 JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION; CREATION BY ORDINANCE; MEMBERS; COMPENSATION**

- a. The governing bodies of two or more municipalities may, by adoption of substantially similar ordinances, create a joint environmental commission for the protection, development or use of natural resources, including water resources located within their combined territorial limits.

- b. The number and qualifications of the members of such joint environmental commission, and their terms and methods of appointment or removal shall be such as may be determined and agreed upon by said governing bodies and set forth in the ordinance creating such joint commission, except that
- (1) when such joint commission is created by two municipalities only, there shall be at least three members from each municipality;
  - (2) when such joint commission is created by three or more municipalities, there shall be at least two members from each municipality;
  - (3) at least one member from each municipality shall be a member of the planning board (if any) of the municipality, and
  - (4) a majority of the members of the joint commission shall hold no other public office, except membership on a municipal or other planning board.
- c. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but may receive reimbursement for actual expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the commission.

**40:56A-9 CHAIRMAN; QUALIFICATIONS; TERM IN OFFICE**

A joint environmental commission shall elect its chairman, who shall hold no other public office or position, except that he may be a member of a municipal or other planning board. The term of the chairman shall be one year, and he shall be



eligible to succeed himself unless the ordinance creating the commission shall otherwise provide. The ordinance creating such commission may provide that the chairmanship of the commission be rotated annually so that over each period of years corresponding to the number of participating municipalities it shall be held in each year by a member appointed from a different participating municipality.

**40:56A-10 EXPENSES; APPORTIONMENT; APPROPRIATION**

The proportion of the expense of the joint environmental commission to be borne by each participating municipality shall be such as may be determined and agreed upon by the participating municipalities, and said municipalities are hereby authorized to appropriate their respective shares of such expenses. Within the limits thus agreed upon and duly appropriated the commission may employ such clerical and technical or other assistants and may incur such other expenses as it may deem necessary to carry out its functions.

**40:56A-11 FUNCTIONS, DUTIES AND POWERS**

A commission created pursuant to this supplementary act shall have, with respect to all the participating municipalities, and to each of them, all the functions, duties and powers of an environmental commission established in a single municipality under section 2 and 3 of PL. 1968, c. 245 (C.40:56A-2 and 40:56A-3) and section 7 of PL.1972, c. 35 (C.40:56A-6).

**40:56A-12 SUCCESSION OF ESTABLISHED COMMISSION BY JOINT COMMISSION; TRANSFERS**

If any municipality which has heretofore established an environmental commission under the act to which this act is a supplement shall enter into participation in a joint environmental commission, such environmental commission heretofore established shall be abolished upon the taking effect of the ordinance establishing the joint environmental commission, and the terms of the members of such abolished environmental commission shall immediately cease and terminate. Except as may otherwise be provided in the ordinance establishing such joint commission, all employees of such abolished environmental commission, and all the records, property and funds in its possession or under its control shall be transferred to the joint environmental commission, and its debts and other financial obligations shall be assumed by the joint environmental commission.

## Legislative Statement 1968 Enactment

This bill would enable a municipality to establish a conservation commission as a functioning unit of municipal government to promote the conservation and development of the municipality's natural resources. A conservation commission would be responsible for providing the impetus and taking the leadership in natural resources planning at a local level where no organized effort towards these ends has been noticeable in the past.

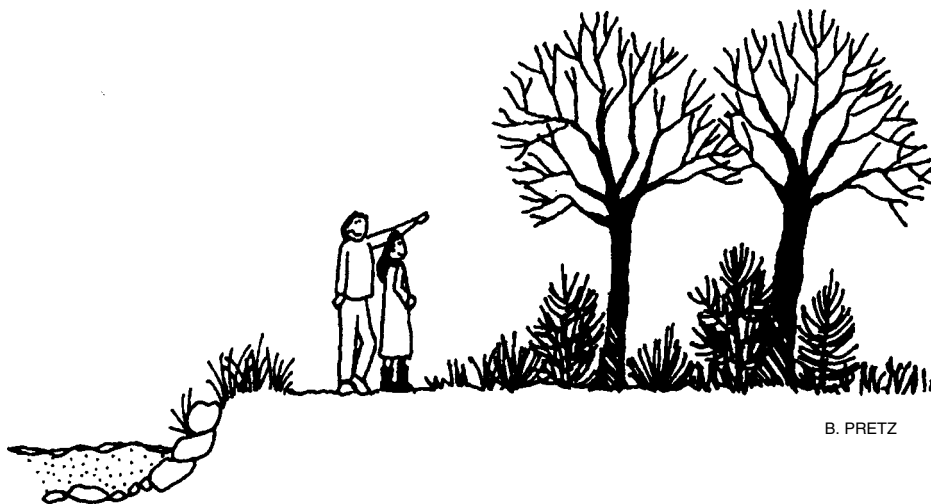
A commission's activities would be devoted to planning, implementing and informing the public about local conservation programs. It would produce natural resource inventories, plans and projects for development and recommend conservation measures to be included by planning boards in master plans for land use. It could accept gifts of land, interests therein or funds, or apply for grants to acquire land or interests therein, all on behalf of the municipality for conservation purposes. It could manage donated or purchased land for conservation purposes and operate conservation programs. It would act as the coordinating agency of the community on conservation matters and a liaison between local conservation needs and regional, state and federal agencies ministering to those needs.

Such enabling legislation has been adopted by several New England states and the record of accomplishment of those conservation commissions established under such laws has been outstanding. The experience of other states has been that a properly constituted conservation commission will complement, not overlap or conflict with, existing organizations.

This bill is vital in order to ensure more effectively the preservation of New Jersey's natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the citizens of our state now and in the future.

## Legislative Statement 1972 Enactment

In 1968 the legislature passed an act authorizing municipal conservation commissions. Since that time over 100 municipalities have created conservation commissions. This act is designed to strengthen and promote this movement by broadening the powers and responsibilities of the commissions. The act authorizes studies into all areas of environmental concern while continuing the commissions as citizen advisory bodies which make recommendations to the elected governing bodies.



B. PRETZ

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# ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MODEL ORDINANCE

An ordinance to establish an Environmental Commission in the (municipality), County of (county) and state of New Jersey.

**SECTION 1. Creation:** The (municipality) Environmental Commission is hereby established pursuant to Chapter 245 of the Laws of 1968 (N.J.S.A. 40:56A-1 to 40:56A-12), as amended by Chapter 35, PL. 1972.

**SECTION 2. Members:** The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Mayor, one of whom shall also be a member of the Planning Board and all of whom shall be residents of (municipality); the members shall serve without compensation except as hereinafter provided. The Mayor shall designate one of the members to serve as Chairman and presiding officer of the Commission. The terms of the office of the first commissioners shall be for 1, 2 or 3 years, to be designated by the Mayor in making his appointments and their successors shall be appointed for terms of 3 years and until the appointment and qualification of their successors. The first members of the Commission shall be appointed for the following terms:

- 2 members for the 1-year term expiring December 31, (year),
- 2 members for the 2-year term expiring December 31, (year),
- 3 members for the 3-year term expiring December 31, (year).

The Mayor or governing body may remove any member of the Commission for cause, on written charges served upon the member and after the hearing thereon at which the member shall be entitled to be heard in person or by counsel. A vacancy on the Commission occurring otherwise than expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as an original appointment.

#### **Alternate Members\***

**SECTION 3. Powers of Commission:** The Commission is established for the protection, development or use of natural resources, including water resources, located within territorial limits of (municipality). The Commission shall have power to conduct research into the use and possible use of the open land areas of the municipality and may coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print, and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its purposes. It shall keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marshland, swamps and other wetlands, in order to obtain information on the proper use of such areas and may from time to time recommend to the Planning Board plans and programs for inclusion in the Master Plan and the development and use of such areas.

**SECTION 4. Acquisitions by Commission:** The Environmental Commission may, subject to the approval of the governing body, acquire property, both real and personal, in the name of the municipality by gift, purchase, grant, bequest, devise or lease for any of its purposes and shall administer the same for such purposes subject to the terms of the conveyance or gift. Such an acquisition may be to acquire the fee or any lesser interest, development right, easement (including conservation easement), covenant or other contractual right (including a conveyance on conditions or with limitations or reversions), as may be necessary to acquire, maintain, improve, protect, limit the future use of, or otherwise conserve and properly utilize open spaces and other land and water areas in the municipality.

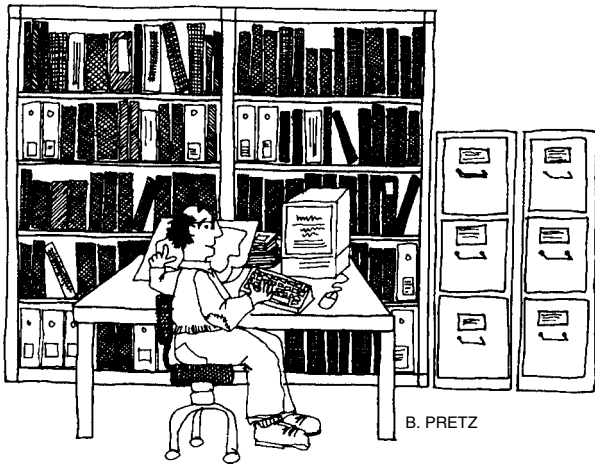
**SECTION 5. Records and Annual Reports:** The Environmental Commission shall keep records of its meetings and activities and make an annual report to the governing body.

**SECTION 6. Appropriations:** The Commission may appoint such clerks and other employees and incur such expenses as it may from time to time require, providing the same shall be within the limits of funds appropriated to it by the governing body or otherwise available to it.

**SECTION 7. Studies and Recommendations:** The Environmental Commission shall have power to study and make recommendations concerning open space preservation, water resources management, air pollution control, solid waste management, noise control, soil and landscape protection, environmental appearance, marine resources and protection of flora and fauna.

**SECTION 8.** This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage and publication according to law.

\*Contact ANJEC Resource Center for clause regarding alternate members at: [resourcecenter@anjec.org](mailto:resourcecenter@anjec.org), (973) 539-7547.



## ANJEC RESOURCE CENTER

The Resource Center offers the following services free to all ANJEC members:

- Access to our expansive reference collection of more than 7,000 books, pamphlets, documents and government publications ranging from academic texts to environmental resource inventories;
- Personal assistance from ANJEC staff;
- More than 1,200 current files covering topics from affordable housing to zoning;
- Extensive material and files on state and federal laws including current and pending legislation and regulations;
- A digital library of municipal ordinances covering topics such as tree protection, noise pollution, critical areas protection, renewable energy and hazardous materials;
- Response and referral center for questions and requests for information and materials relating to local, state and national environmental issues, problems and projects.
- A comprehensive website including ordinances, Tools and Resources section with information on open space, water resources, urban environment, IPM and ANJEC Resource Papers.

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Founded in 1969 at the beginning of the environmental movement, the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions is a statewide, nonprofit organization with a unique mission. We provide leadership, training, information, tools and support to our State's local environmental commissions, green teams and elected officials who are working to safeguard natural resources and promote sustainable land use in their communities.



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### MIMI UPMEYER RESOURCE PAPER COLLECTION



ANJEC dedicates its collection of Resource Papers to Mimi Upmeyer, who worked for ANJEC for 10 years and later served as a board trustee. As our State Plan project director, she worked with environmental commissioners and local officials in towns across New Jersey and provided them with information and contacts to help implement good land use planning and zoning. To help local officials deal with these issues, she conceived the idea for ANJEC's Resource Papers – and wrote the first three. Packed with concise, practical information on specific topics for local environmental protection, ANJEC's every expanding stock of Resource Papers, has become a standard element of our educational program. For a list of all our Resource Papers, contact ANJEC at 973-539-7547 or visit the Publications page on [www.anjec.org](http://www.anjec.org).

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