

ORDINANCE MERGING THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND THE INLAND WETLANDS and WATERCOURSES COMMISSION WITH MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

WHEREAS, pursuant to General Statutes sections 22a-42 and 7-131a, the Town of Chaplin has enacted ordinances creating an Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission elected by the voters in the municipal elections held in November, and a Conservation Commission appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Town, currently the First Selectman; and

WHEREAS, both the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses and Conservation commissions are purposed and engaged in similar and different ways in the protection and enhancement of wetlands, watercourses and the physical environment of the Town of Chaplin; and

WHEREAS, at this time the six-member, three alternate Conservation Commission has only one regular member and no alternates, and the five-member three alternate Inland Wetlands Commission has five regular members and two alternates in place; and

WHEREAS, based on the experience of the memberships of these two somewhat overlapping agencies it is found that merging the two into one commission whose members are appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Town with the advice and consent of the Board of Selectmen is in the best interests of the Town because it will maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the combined group in fulfilling the purposes of the two entities set forth in the General Statutes and the ordinances of the Town, and so for all of the foregoing reasons it is

THEREFORE RESOLVED, ORDAINED, VOTED and LEGISLATED that effective on July 1, 2021:

1. The Conservation Commission and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission are merged into a single Town agency called **The Inland Wetlands, Watercourses and Conservation Commission**, whose five regular members and three alternates shall be appointed by the First Selectman of the Town, with the advice and consent of the Board of Selectmen; and
2. Sections 2 and 7 of the **Ordinance Establishing a Wetlands Commission, et seq.**, enacted by the Annual Town Meeting held on February 21, 1980, are **repealed**; but the remaining portions of that Ordinance are incorporated by reference herein and retained as being applicable to the merged **Inland Wetlands, Watercourses and Conservation Commission**; and
3. The Ordinance pertaining to the **Wetlands Commission** that was enacted by the Town Meeting held on June 5, 1989, and the **“Inland Wetlands Commission Ordinance Amendment”** enacted by the Town Meeting on May 9, 2016, are **both repealed in their entirety**; and
4. The **Conservation Commission Ordinance**, enacted by the Town Meeting on April 24, 1995, is **repealed**, but the functions of the Conservation Commission set forth in section 2 of the repealed Ordinance are incorporated by reference herein and retained as functions of the merged **Inland Wetlands, Watercourses and Conservation Commission**.

5. Beginning on July 1, 2021, appointments to the merged Commission may be made as follows:

- a. The two electors filling positions on the Inland Wetlands Commission who are due for re-election on November 2, 2021, may serve as regular members on the merged Commission until then, and may be reappointed or replaced on the merged Commission effective November 3, 2021, until June 30, 2027, and thereafter such positions shall be filled by appointment for terms of six years; and
- b. The elector filling the position on the Inland Wetlands Commission who is due for re-election on November 7, 2023, may serve as a regular member of the merged Commission until then, and may be reappointed or replaced on the merged Commission effective November 8, 2023, until June 30, 2029, and thereafter such position shall be filled by appointment for terms of six years; and
- c. The two electors filling positions on the Inland Wetlands Commission who are due for re-election on November 4, 2025, may serve as regular members of the merged Commission until then and may be reappointed or replaced on the merged Commission effective November 5, 2025, until June 30, 2031, and thereafter such positions shall be filled by appointment for terms of six years; and
- d. The elector in the only currently filled position on the Conservation Commission may be appointed to an alternate position on the newly merged Commission effective July 1, 2021, until June 30, 2025, and thereafter such position shall be filled by appointment for terms of six years; and
- e. The elector filling the alternate position on the Inland Wetlands Commission that is due for re-election on November 2, 2021, may continue to serve on the merged Commission until then, and may be appointed or replaced on the merged Commission effective November 3, 2021 until June 30, 2027, and thereafter such position shall be filled for terms of six years; and
- f. The elector filling the alternate position on the Wetlands Commission who is due for re-election on November 7, 2023, may serve on the merged Commission until then and may be appointed or replaced on November 8, 2023, until June 30, 2029, and thereafter such position shall be filled by appointment for terms of six years; and

5. The Chief Executive Officer of the Town, currently the First Selectman, with the advice and consent of the Board of Selectmen may remove any member or alternate of the merged Commission for good cause shown, and may fill any vacancy on the Commission in accordance with the foregoing schedule of terms.

IF ENACTED BY THE TOWN MEETING REFERENDUM THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE FIFTEEN DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF A SUMMARY OF THE ORDINANCE IN A NEWSPAPER HAVING A CIRCULATION IN THE TOWN.