



Michele Paul, Director
Environmental Stewardship
Chancery Perks, Conservation Agent
New Bedford Conservation Commission

September 14, 2022

Good morning Michele and Chance,

Thank you for allowing me to meet with the Conservation Commission on September 20. I have been printing out materials for the Conservation Commission meeting on the 20th of September to discuss the Acushnet Cedar Swamp, Fens, and Turner Pond bank restoration, interpretation, and potential MA DCR - Area of Critical Environmental Concern, ACEC protection.

The Acushnet Cedar Swamp article from the New Bedford Light might be helpful to the Conservation Commissioners. Would it be possible to print copies for the Conservation Commissioners?

<https://newbedfordlight.org/a-national-treasure-worth-preserving-and-protecting/>

Is there someone I should call from the MA DCR to discuss the restoration of the banks for canoe launches, the repair of the scoured and undercut roadway, parking, trash removal, and dumping removal? Who should I speak with to get the area cleaned up?

Once the banks of Turner Pond are restored and canoe launches and parking can be safe, the area could have educational kiosks installed with educational interpretive panels. New Bedford Voc Tech has already agreed to construct 2 double-faced cedar kiosks with cedar shingle roofs for Turner Pond.

Could I ask for the New Bedford Conservation Commission's support to pursue this project further with a Wicked Cool Places and/or New Bedford Cultural Council grant? A letter of support is required for grant applications, which are due by the close of September. This would be very helpful and would allow me to defray expenses. Thank you.

Does the New Bedford Conservation Commission wish to nominate the Acushnet Cedar Swamp, Fens, and Turner Pond for a MA DCR- Area of Critical Environmental Concern designation? An ACEC would define and protect these wetlands and water bodies from encroachment and fragmentation in future.

These might be helpful for the Conservation Commission members:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/acec-program-overview>

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/acec-designations>

I wrote the ACEC designations for the Neponset River Estuary and for the Fowl Meadow and Ponkapoag Bog some years ago with the Neponset River Watershed Association. They were marshaled through and designated by Trudy Cox, the then Secretary of Environmental Affairs under Governor Weld.

I can help to write an ACEC designation for the Acushnet Cedar Swamp, Fens, and Turner Pond, if the City of New Bedford would like to see this happen.

Thanks again,

Joseph

Joseph Ingoldsby, ASLA
Natural and Cultural Landscapes