

Chapter 14

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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[HISTORY: Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Alden 2-9-2012 as L.L. No. 1-2012.]

GENERAL REFERENCES

Flood damage prevention -- See Ch. 105.

§ 14-1. Commission created.

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Alden hereby creates a commission which shall be known as the "Village of Alden Commission for Conservation of the Environment," hereinafter called the "Commission."

§ 14-2. Legislative intent.

The preservation and improvement of the quality of the natural and man-made environment within the Village of Alden, 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 Village of Alden. It is recognized that the biologic integrity of the natural environment on which man is dependent for survival and the natural 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 and Village of Alden working in partnership with local and state officials and with various public and private institutions, agencies and organizations. Establishment of the Commission for

Conservation of the Environment is a necessary step in fostering unified action on environmental problems and to ensure compliance with various related Local Laws.

§ 14-3. Membership.

- A. The Commission shall consist of five (5) members. The members shall be appointed by the Mayor upon the consent of the Board of Trustees and shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor. Persons residing within the Village and Town who are interested in the improvement and preservation of environmental quality shall be eligible for appointment as a member of the Commission. Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as other Village appointments, except that a vacancy occurring other than by the expiration of term of office shall be filled only for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- B. The Board of Trustees of the Village, the Village Mayor, the Chairman of the Planning Board, the Village Superintendent of Public Works, Village Attorney, Code Enforcement Officer, and other officials that may be hereafter designated by the Mayor shall be ex officio members of the Commission.

§ 14-4. Officers, meetings and committees.

The Mayor, 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 an annual report as provided in this chapter.

§ 14-5. Powers and duties.

The powers and duties of the Commission shall be to:

- A. Advise the Board of Trustees and the Mayor on matters affecting the preservation, development, and use of the natural and man-made features and conditions of the Village of Alden, 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 of the people of the Village of Alden.

- B. Develop and, after receiving general approval by the Board of Trustees, conduct a program of public information in the community which shall be designed to foster increased understanding of the nature of the environmental problems and issues and support for their solutions.
- C. Conduct studies, surveys and inventories of the natural and man-made features within the Village of Alden and such other studies and surveys as may be necessary to carry out the general purpose of this chapter.
- D. Maintain an up-to-date inventory or index of all open spaces in public and private ownership within the municipality, including but not limited to natural landmarks, glacial and other geomorphic or physiographic features, streams and their floodplains, swamps, marshland 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 Village of Alden in accordance 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. Work in cooperation with the Planning Board, recommending from time to time to the Board of Trustees, plans and programs relating to environmental improvement for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan of the Village of Alden and, similarly, recommend to the Board of Trustees and the Code Enforcement Officer, appropriate and desirable changes in existing local laws and ordinances relating to environmental control or recommend new resolutions, local laws and ordinances.
- H. Have all of the powers which are allowed and specified under the laws of the State of New York.
- I. Make recommendations to the Board of Trustees and the Mayor, with respect to acceptance, by gift, grant, devise, bequest or otherwise, property, both real and personal, in the name of the Village of Alden as may be necessary to conserve and otherwise properly utilize open spaces and other land and water resources within the boundaries of the Village of Alden. Such real property may be accepted upon

the recommendation of the Village Attorney in fee for land and water rights or as any lesser interest, development, rights, easement, including conservation easement, covenant or other contractual right, including conveyance with limitations or reversions.

- J. Carry out such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Board of Trustees and the Mayor.
- K. Prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts and pamphlets in accord with the purposes of this chapter subject to funding as may be designated by the Mayor.
- L. Obtain and maintain in orderly fashion books and other publications to support the necessary researches of the Commission into local environmental conditions.

§ 14-6. Reports.

The Commission shall submit an annual report to the Board of Trustees, not later than the first day of April of each year concerning the activities of and the 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 expenses.

The members of the Commission, including ex-officio members, shall receive no compensation for their services as members thereof but may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within the appropriation made available therefor and pursuant to any policies set by the Village.