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Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 1:03 PM

Subject: [BULK] IMPORTANT Commission Alert: New Legislation Rolls Back Permitting Deadlines to December 1



MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS

Dear MACC Conservation Commissioners and other members:

Last week, Governor Baker signed legislation that is important to all conservation commissions (Chapter 201 of the Acts of 2020).

During the COVID-19 emergency declaration, some municipal permitting deadlines were extended by Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 to ***45 days after the end of the state of emergency.***

- **Last week's legislation changes that deadline to **December 1, 2020.**** Red-lined changes that the recent legislation made to Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 are provided [HERE](#).
- MACC has attached a summary of these legislative changes [HERE](#).

What does this mean to Conservation Commissions?

- Under Section 17(b)(ii) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 (as amended), ***the 21-day period for opening a hearing after an application is filed, now resumes on December 1, 2020.***
- For any applications that came in since March 10 for which a hearing has not yet been opened, the conservation commission has until December 21 to open the hearing.
- For hearings that are underway, consent of the applicant will be necessary to continue the hearing past December 1.
- For hearings closed prior to November 10, the commission chair can only extend the deadline for issuing the Order of Conditions to a date on or before December 1. (For hearings closed on November 10 or later, the normal 21-day deadline will apply.)

Please share this information with your commissions and staff.

Call or email us with any questions. – MACC Staff & Board of Directors

Dorothy A. McGlincy, PG, LSP

Executive Director, Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions