

Local Law #1 of 1989
Also filed with Dec, Albany

LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH A
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
IN A CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE

A LOCAL LAW to establish a Conservation Advisory Council of the Town of New Haven, pursuant to Section 239-x of the General Municipal Law.

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of New Haven as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Intent. The preservation and improvement of the quality of the natural and man-made environment within the Town of New Haven, 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 Town of New Haven. It is recognized that the biologic integrity of the natural environment on which man is dependent for survival and the natural and 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, working in partnership with local and state officials and with various public and private institutions, agencies, and organizations. Establishment of a conservation council is a necessary step in fostering unified action on environmental problems.

Section 2. Establishment of the Council. The Town Board of the Town of New Haven hereby creates a Conservation Advisory Council which shall be known as the New Haven Town Conservation Advisory Council hereinafter called the Council.

Section. 3. Membership. (1) The Council shall consist of six members of which six shall be appointed by the New Haven Town Board and who shall serve for 2 years, at the pleasure of New Haven Town Board. Persons residing within the Town of New Haven who are interested in the improvement and preservation of environmental quality shall be eligible for appointment as a member of council. Vacancies on the council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment 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. (2) One or more members of the governing body of Town attorney and other officials that may be hereafter designated by the Town Board shall be ex-officio members of the council.

Section 4. Officers, meetings and committees. The Town Board shall designate a member of the council to act as chairman thereof. At the first meeting of the council its members shall elect from among themselves a recording secretary. The council 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 section six of this local law.

Section 5. Powers and duties of the council. The powers and duties of the council shall be to:

- (1) Advise the Town Board on matters affecting the preservation, development, and use of the natural and man-made features and conditions of the Town, insofar as quality, biologic integrity, beauty and other environmental factors are concerned. In the case of man's activities and developments, advise on any major threats posed to environmental quality, so as to enhance the long-range value of the environment to the people of the Town.
- (2) Conduct and maintain an inventory of the natural resources within the Town of New Haven.
- (3) Maintain an up-to-date index of all open spaces as defined in Section 239-y of the General Municipal Law, in public or private ownership within the municipality, including but not limited to natural landmarks, glacial and other geomorphic or physiographic features; streams and their flood plains, swamps, marshlands, and other wetlands; unique biotic communities; scenic and other open areas of natural or ecological value. Such index shall include the ownership, present and proposed uses of such open areas, so as to provide a base of information for recommendations by the council for their preservation and/or use.
- (4) Seek to coordinate, assist, and unify the efforts of private groups, institutions and individuals within the Town of New Haven in accord with the purposes of this local law.
- (5) Maintain liaison and communications with public and private agencies and organizations whose programs and activities have an impact on the quality of the environment or can be of assistance to the council.
- (6) Working in cooperation with the planning board, recommend from time to time to the Town Board features, plans and programs relating to environmental improvement for inclusion in the master plan of the Town of New Haven and similarly, recommended to the Town Board appropriate and desirable changes in existing local laws and ordinances relating to environmental and land use controls or recommend new local laws and ordinances.
- (7) Prepare, print, and distribute books, maps, charts, and pamphlets in accord with the purposes of this local law.
- (8) Obtain and maintain in orderly fashion maps, reports, books and other publications to support the necessary researches of the commission into local environmental conditions.
- (9) When authorized by resolution of the Town Board of the Town of New Haven, the council may accept by gift, grant, devise, bequest, or otherwise, property both real and personal in the name of the Town of New Haven, as may be necessary to conserve and otherwise properly utilize open spaces and other land and water resources within the boundaries of the Town of New Haven. Such real property may be accepted in fee for land and water rights, or as any lesser interests, development right, easement, including conservation easement, covenant, or other contractual right including conveyance with limitations or reversions.
- (10) Carry out such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Town Board.

Section 6. Reports. The council shall keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and shall submit an annual report to the Town Board not later than the thirty-first day of December of each year, concerning the activities and work of the council. From time to time the council shall submit such reports and recommendations as may be necessary to fulfill the purpose of this local law.

Section 7. Compensation and expenses. The members of the council 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 appropriations made available thereof.

Section 8. Construction. This local law shall be deemed an exercise of the powers of the Town of New Haven to preserve and improve the quality of the natural and man made environment on behalf of the present and future inhabitants thereof. This local law is not intended and shall not be deemed to impair the powers of any other public corporation.

Section 9. Effective date. This local law shall take effect on 7/11/89.