

## Chapter 6

### COMMISSIONS

**[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Liberty as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]**

#### GENERAL REFERENCES

Planning Board — See Ch. 31.

#### ARTICLE I

##### **Environmental Conservation Council** **[Adopted 2-20-2007 by L.L. No. 2-2007]**

##### **§ 6-1. Legislative intent.**

The preservation and improvement of the quality of the natural and man-made environment within the Town of Liberty 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 Liberty. 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 commission for conservation of the environment is a necessary step in fostering unified action on environmental problems.

##### **§ 6-2. Establishment.**

The Town Board of the Town of Liberty hereby creates a commission, which shall be known as the "Town of Liberty Environmental Conservation Council."

##### **§ 6-3. Membership.**

- A. The Council shall consist of five members, of which all five shall be appointed by the Town Board and shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Board. Persons residing within the Town of Liberty who are interested in the improvement and preservation of environmental quality shall be eligible for appointment as a member of the Council. Vacancies on the Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original 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. Not more than one person in the sixteen-to-twenty-one-year-old age group may be appointed.
- B. The Town Supervisor, the Chairman of the Planning Board, the Chairman of the Zoning

Board of Appeals, the Chairman of the Town Parks and Recreation Board and such other officials that may be hereafter designated by the Town Board shall be ex officio members of the Council.

**§ 6-4. Officers; meetings; 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 § 6-6 of this article.

**§ 6-5. Powers and duties.**

The powers and duties of the Council shall be to:

- A. 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 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 to the people of the Town.
- B. Develop and, after receiving general approval by resolution of the Town Board, conduct a program of public information in the community, which shall be designed to foster increased understanding of the nature of environmental issues and support for their solutions.
- C. Conduct studies, surveys and inventories of the natural and man-made features within the Town of Liberty and such other studies and surveys as may be necessary to carry out the general purpose of this article.
- D. Maintain an up-to-date inventory or index of all open spaces in public or private ownership within the Town of Liberty, including but not limited to natural landmarks, glacial and other geomorphic or physiographic features; streams and their floodplains, swamps, marshlands 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 recommendation 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 Town of Liberty in accord with the purposes of this article.
- 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. Working in cooperation with the Planning, Zoning and Town Boards, recommend from time to time to the Town Board features, plans and programs relating to environmental improvement for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan of the Town of Liberty and, similarly, recommend to the Town Board appropriate and desirable changes in existing

local laws and ordinances relating to environmental control or recommend new local laws and ordinances.

- H. Prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts and pamphlets in accord with the purposes of this article.
- I. Obtain and maintain, in an orderly fashion, maps, reports, books and other publications to support the necessary research of the Council into local environmental conditions.
- J. When authorized by resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Liberty, the Council may accept, by gift, grant, devise, bequest or otherwise, property, both real and personal, in the name of the Town of Liberty, 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 Liberty. Such real property may be accepted in fee for land and water rights or as any lesser interest, development right, easement, including conservation easement, covenant or other contractual right, including conveyance with limitations or reversions. Purchases may be affected in accordance with the provisions of existing laws, as applicable.
- K. Carry out such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Town Board.

**§ 6-6. Reports.**

The Council shall submit an annual report to the Town Board, not later than the first day of March of each year, concerning the activities and work of the Council and, from time to time, shall submit such reports and recommendations as may be necessary to fulfill the purposes of this article.

**§ 6-7. Compensation.**

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 therefor. The Town Board of the Town of Liberty may appropriate funds for expenses incurred by the Council, including but not limited to expenses for professional staff, consultants, clerical assistance and printing and distribution of publications. The Council shall prepare and submit an annual budget request in the manner prescribed by the Town Board. The Town Board, upon request by the Council, also may, from time to time and for designated purposes, assign or detail public employees to perform work for the Council.

**§ 6-8. Construal of provisions.**

This article shall be deemed an exercise of the powers of the Town of Liberty to preserve and improve the quality of the natural and man-made environment on behalf of the present and future inhabitants thereof. This article is not intended and shall not be deemed to impair the powers of any other public corporation.