

Ten Commandments for Conservation Commissions

- I. Thou shalt do a natural resource inventory.
- II. Thou shalt seek the facts upon which to base decisions and to present to the government body and other interested individuals and groups. Thou shalt be comprehensive yet comprehensible.
- III. Thou shalt seek members who are intelligent, interested, respected members of the community, and who are willing and able to devote time to commission activities.
- IV. Thou shalt establish lines of communication with the governing body, other municipal boards, interest groups, other conservation commissions, the county environmental management council, the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and other agencies and organizations which can provide assistance to the commission or benefit by receiving commission input.
- V. Thou shalt hold regular meetings - at least once per month. These meetings shall be publicized and open to all who wish to attend.
- VI. Thou shalt submit an annual report and copies of all other reports to the governing body, the county environmental management council, the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions, and the Department of Environmental Conservation.
- VII. Thou shalt maintain a high profile by publicizing the commission's activities.
- VIII. Thou shalt not allow partisan politics to enter into thy dealings with the governing body.
- IX. Thou shalt serve in an advisory capacity - not adversary. Thou shalt not try to subvert or end run the decision-makers.
- X. Thou shalt not push too hard. Do not forfeit the war to win the battle.