



Sharon Conservation Checklist **Filing a Request for Determination of Applicability** **also known as an RDA**



Before beginning the application process for a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA), contact the Conservation Department to discuss whether or not your proposed project falls within the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction. The Conservation Administrator will help determine if filing an RDA is appropriate.

The Conservation Commission requires applicants submit an RDA and related documents in print **and** digital form. Hand deliver or send printed packets via certified mail. Submit digital copies via e-mail or on a USB drive.

Josh Philibert, Conservation Administrator
219 Massapoag Ave., Sharon, MA 02067 | (781) 784-1511 | SharonConCom@townofsharon.org

MassDEP requires one print **or** one digital copy of the RDA and related documents. Hand deliver or send printed packets via certified mail. Follow directions below for digitally submitting to MassDEP.

MassDEP, Southeast Regional Office
20 Riverside Drive, Lakeville, MA 02347

Sending electronic submissions to MassDEP requires signing up to access a free online portal known as eDEP. A step-by-step guide on submitting an RDA to MassDEP electronically is available on the Commission's webpage:

<http://www.townofsharon.net/conservation-commission>

The WPA Form 1 and general guidance on filing an RDA is available on the MassDEP website:
<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/wpa-form-1-request-for-determination-of-applicability>

The Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing to review a complete application within 21 days of receipt. Agendas are posted on the department webpage and at Town Hall, no less than 48 hours before a scheduled hearing.

The Sharon Conservation Guide to Permitting provides additional information about the permitting process.

Applications Must Include:

- 1.) Narrative or Cover Letter describing the project site and proposed activities
- 2.) WPA Form 1 - available online, link listed above. The Conservation Department provides print copies.
- 3.) Site plans which must show at a minimum*:
 - a. The property where the proposed project is located in its entirety
 - b. All wetland resource areas, buffer zones, setbacks, and riverfront areas
 - c. All proposed work identifying the limit of Work
- 4.) Additional figures may be applicable: Locus Map (USGS); Aerial Imagery Map; FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map; Priority Habitat from Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. Consult the Conservation Administrator for guidance. Information can be found on the "layers" feature on the town GIS website.
<https://www.axisgis.com/sharonMA/>
- 5.) See "Fees and Legal Information" below for details regarding costs, abutter notifications, & public notices.

*Certain projects may require site plans signed and stamped by a Registered professional.

Fees and Legal Information

Submit 2 checks to the Conservation Department with the application packet, payable to the Town of Sharon.

- 1.) Filing Fee: \$50.00
- 2.) Advertising Fee: \$275.00 – All public hearings must be published in a “newspaper of general circulation” at least 5 calendar days before a scheduled hearing date per the Town of Sharon Wetlands Bylaw.

Applicants are also required to notify abutters with 300 of feet of a project location, at least 7 days before a scheduled hearing date. This is a multi-step process.

- 1.) Request an official list from the Assessor’s Office via: <https://sharonma.seamlessdocs.com/f/abutters/>
 - a. The fee is \$.50 per abutter with a \$6.00 minimum
 - b. Abutter lists shall include other municipalities for properties in proximity to the town line
 - c. Include the list in the application packet
- 2.) Complete an Abutter Notification form, available on the Conservation Department webpage.
- 3.) Distribute the Abutter Notification form via hand delivery or certified mail, return receipt requested.
- 4.) Proof of delivery to all abutters is required.
 - a. Recipients signatures are required for hand delivered notifications
 - b. Certified mail receipts originals or copies should be included with the RDA application
 - c. Returned green cards should be submitted to the Conservation Department prior to the hearing
- 5.) The application must include a signed Affidavit of Service, available on the Conservation Department webpage.

RDA Application Packet Checklist

Narrative/Cover Letter	Abutter List
WPA Form 1	Affidavit of Service
Site Plans (2 Print Copies, 1 Digital Copy)	Abutter Notification Form
Additional Applicable Figures	Proof of Abutter Notification
Filing Fee \$50.00 payable to Town of Sharon	1 Print or Digital Submission to MassDEP
Advertising Fee \$275.00 payable to Town of Sharon	

Completed Application Packets sent to the Town of Sharon Conservation Department:

1 Original Hard Copy **1 Hard Copy Duplicate** **1 Digital Copy**

Recording Information

Approved projects will receive a Negative Determination of Applicability also known as a Negative Determination. Negative determinations must be recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds. Applicants should make a copy of the negative determination & submit the original to the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds by hand delivery or certified mail. The recording fee is \$106.00 and payable to the Registry of Deeds.

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds
649 High Street Dedham, MA 02026

Send proof of recording with the book and page number to the Conservation Department **before** work beings.