

Culvert Installation Basics for Planning Boards and Conservation Commissions

1. Incorporate standards and specifications, into the Subdivision and Site Plan Review Regulations, for the installation of new culverts.
 - adopt the entire design guidelines and specifications for the construction of roads, sidewalks, curbs, storm drainage and other public improvements as an appendix of the regulations.
2. Ask questions during the public hearing regarding the type of culvert, size, and installation of the proposed culvert. Questions will generate discussion and will send the message to the applicant that this is an important issue for the town.
3. Require notes to be added to the approved plan. This will hold the applicant accountable and provide a source of information for the contractor that will be doing the installation work.
4. Include, as a condition of approval, a requirement that the culvert be installed in accordance with town standards and “Best Management Practices”.

Considerations for proposals with new and replacement culverts:

1. Proper sizing of the proposed culvert. How was the size determined? Is it large enough to handle the flow of a 50 year storm? A 100 year storm?
2. Design of the proposed culvert. Is the design and material used “wildlife friendly”?
3. Proper installation of the culvert. Is the depth proposed sufficient to allow for wildlife passage during periods of low flow?
4. Other permits required? Have all other permits (local, state, federal, etc.) been granted or applied for?
5. Best Management Practices. Does the proposal include best management practices for culverts? Erosion control bmp’s?