During 2016, the Commission was without an Agent for nearly 6 months, however thanks to the tremendous efforts of Brandi Gordon in the Conservation Office, we were able to keep up with the community’s most pressing needs until the return of Maureen Thomas, agent extraordinaire, in December.

The Town acquired the Albertini land off of Grove Street in 2016, now known as the Cranberry Watershed Annex, utilizing a combination of Community Preservation Act funds, a Local Area Natural Diversity Grant and a donation from the Sheehan Family Foundation. This effort to expand the community benefits of the adjacent Cranberry Watershed Preserve (CWP) and improve water quality within adjacent Jones River will provide considerable value to the residents of Kingston and beyond in perpetuity. The acquisition of this property was in keeping with the Towns 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan, which was updated and finalized in 2016. Building off the prior plan and considering the changes in the landscape throughout Kingston since 2008, as well as anticipation of future growth, the 2016 OSRP update provides a definitive plan to achieve those open space and recreation goals and objectives identified by the community through various planning efforts. Beyond these two very time-consuming projects, the Commission received 27 formal wetland filings that required public hearings including Notices of Intent (NOI’s), Requests for Determination of Applicability (RDA’s), Abbreviated Notices of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD’s), as well as Requests for Amendment and Extension with the issuance of the various permits and determinations that accompany them. The Commission also issued 5 Certificates of Compliance for completed projects. The Commission and staff worked on other important projects during the year including the following:

- Wrapping up the collaboration with Emilie Wetzl, Wildlands Trust AmeriCorps staff member, to engage and reconnect the public with conservation lands through hikes and trail projects as part of launching a Volunteer Land Stewardship Program;
- Thanks to Brandi Gordon’s expertise and diligence, launching the new Conservation Commission and Open Space Committee Facebook page to enhance public outreach efforts;
- Collaborating with the new and very proactive Facilities Director, Brad Norman, to increase conservation land maintenance and improve management with the help of the MA Trial Court Community Service Program;
- Working with Streets, Trees, and Parks to install the new parking lot for public access to the Albertini Land;
- Completing the demolition of the barn at Cranberry Watershed Preserve which could not have been completed without the assistance of Commissioner Buz Artiano and friends;
- Facilitating Eagle Scout service projects by Michael Ludwig and Peter Morgan to make great trail improvements to Sampson Park and to create a new access path from Tree Farm Landing to adjacent open space, respectively;
- Welcoming the assistance of the re-energized Open Space Committee on various conservation land initiatives;
- Implementing stormwater best management practices (BMPs) at Shore Drive, Cedar Lane, and Page Avenue under a FY16 Coastal Pollutant Remediation (CPR) grant ($125,000) and developing preliminary designs for other priority outfall locations;
- Presenting articles at Annual Town Meeting to acquire a permanent easement from Brockton to replace and maintain a culvert for the Jones River and to adopt updated FEMA flood zone maps through amendments to the Zoning By-Law;
- Working with various departments on repairing the winter storm damage of the Gray’s Beach revetment;
- Participating with the Kingston Master Plan Update Committee, the Town Planner, and the Planning Board’s consultants to update the Master Plan; and
- Monitoring ongoing construction projects for compliance with permits and addressing various complaints.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Parker
Kingston Conservation Commission