



TOWN OF HINGHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION BOW HUNTING REGULATIONS

Adopted September 8, 2014
Revised August 14, 2017
Revised August 3, 2020
Revised September 13, 2021

Pursuant to Article 30, Section 3 and Article 10, Section 9 of the Town of Hingham General By-Laws as amended, the following regulations are adopted to govern the use of conservation lands for the purpose of bow hunting. Hunting by bow and arrow only is permitted as described in these regulations during the spring turkey and fall deer seasons.

1. The Conservation Commission will issue a list of land open to hunting on an annual basis. Hunting shall only take place within the boundaries of these lands.
2. Hunting Application
 - a. Hunters shall be required to submit an application form to the Town of Hingham at least three weeks prior to the start of hunting season.
 - b. An individual permit can be revoked or denied by the Conservation Officer, police, or designee for cause.
 - c. Applications will be accepted in person, by mail, or submitted electronically.
 - d. Stand/Blind ID tags and Hunting Permit cards must be picked up by the hunter in person.
 - e. Application requirements include:
 - For all applications:
 - i. Completed Town of Hingham Bow Hunting Application Form.
 - ii. A copy of a valid Hunting or Sporting License issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
 - iii. A copy of the hunter's driver's license.
 - For deer hunting applications:
 - iv. A copy of a valid Archery Stamp issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to hunt the archery season, and optionally a copy of a valid Primitive Firearms Stamp to hunt the primitive firearms season.
 - v. A copy of a valid Antlerless Deer Permit for either Wildlife Management Zone 10 or Zone 11 issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
 - For turkey hunting applications:
 - vi. A copy of a valid Turkey Permit issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
3. All State hunting rules and regulations apply.
 - a. No stalking or baiting animals is permitted.
 - b. Traps, nets, and snares are prohibited.
 - c. Stands and blinds shall be placed at least 150 feet from any road or designated walking trail and 500 feet from any occupied building.
 - d. No flagging tape may be used to mark trails, however the use of bright eyes tacks/glow tacks is allowed.
 - e. Crossbows may only be used by certain permanently disabled persons who have received a Crossbow Permit from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The disability status must show on the hunter's state Hunting or Sporting License.
4. Stands and Blinds
 - a. Stands and blinds may be placed on designated conservation lands no more than 16 days prior to the start of hunting season. Hunters who install their stands or blinds before this timeframe will forfeit their Hunting Permit for that hunting season, for both turkey and deer.
 - b. Stand/Blind ID tags will be limited to a maximum of four tags, with no more than two stands or blinds placed by any one hunter on any piece of conservation land.
 - c. Screw in steps are prohibited.
 - d. Stands and blinds shall be removed within 30 days of the end of each hunting season. Hunters who fail to remove their stands or blinds within this timeframe will not be allowed to hunt in the next hunting season, for both turkey and deer.

- e. No stand or blind shall be permitted to remain on conservation land between authorized hunting seasons.
 - f. A Stand/Blind ID tag shall be displayed on each stand or blind so the tag can be viewed from the ground.
5. Hunters shall at all times carry a Town-issued Hunting Permit card.
 6. All traces of animal kills shall be removed or buried at least 100 feet from any trail or wetland. If removal will occur at night, the hunter shall notify the Police Department. The Conservation Office shall be notified of any kill within 48 hours of harvest. Reporting may be done electronically, by phone, or in person. In addition, deer hunters are required to submit a photo(s) of the harvested deer at the parking area or trailhead of the conservation land where harvest occurred, and photo(s) must clearly show the conservation land or hunting signage, or another identifiable feature if signage is not present.
 7. Any illegal stands or blinds shall be reported to the Conservation Office. Whenever possible, a picture and GPS coordinates should be supplied.
 8. Deer hunters who successfully harvest and report a doe (female deer) or a button buck (male deer with antlers less than 3 inches in length) shall be eligible to automatically receive a Hunting Permit to participate in the next year's deer hunting season, provided they submit a complete application by the application deadline.

*All hunters are encouraged to spend two hours per year providing services to maintain conservation lands. Service may include trash pickup, trail clearing, locating illegal stands/blinds, or other projects approved by the Conservation Officer. All hunters are also encouraged to complete and submit hunter log sheets, which include a record of hunting activities, volunteer activities, and wildlife and other observations. This information is very valuable to the Conservation Commission in managing both the hunting program and conservation lands.