

## CHATHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

### **Application for View Pruning; Policy # 02-102**

Date adopted: December 19, 2002 – revised 2006

Under the Chatham Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 37), view pruning or other such trimming of vegetation in an area under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission requires filing an application with the Commission. If the work is a minor one time activity, a simple Administrative Review form may be all that is needed. For ongoing maintenance of view windows, especially if the work is to take place within a resource area such as a coastal or inland bank, flood plain, or wetland, a Notice of Intent application is necessary.

The Commission does not favor the creation of panoramic views, but rather windows of view that would minimize impact to vegetation and trees.

Forms are available at the Conservation Office, Town Annex, 261 George Ryder Road, or from the Town of Chatham Conservation Division's webpage:

[http://www.chatham-ma.gov/Public\\_Documents/ChathamMA\\_Health/conservation](http://www.chatham-ma.gov/Public_Documents/ChathamMA_Health/conservation)

The Commission understands the value of a water view to a property owner and therefore offers the following guidelines as a mean of assisting the applicant through the process.

Guidelines for filing an application for view pruning:

1. Submit photos of existing conditions, with notations of areas proposed to be trimmed
2. Submit a site plan or town topographic map with notations showing where work is proposed; include approximate area dimensions; date and initial
3. Submit a narrative describing the work (eg) to be done by hand, vegetation to be cut to a height of no less than 4 feet, debris will be removed, etc.
4. Where possible, flag the trees, limbs or limits of work in the field for the

Commission to view.

5. Submit a Notice of Intent if any work is proposed that is within a resource area (e.g.) coastal bank, wetland, land subject to coastal storm flowage (100-year flood plain).
6. Debris is to be removed from the site.
7. Topping of trees is not permitted; rather, pruning should be selective so that the value of an existing tree canopy is not substantially diminished and the health and viability of the trees is maintained.

**Any questions may be directed to the Conservation Agent. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 7am-4pm and Friday, 7am-12:30pm.**