

TOWN OF HINGHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BOW HUNTING REGULATIONS

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.

- A. The Conservation Commission will issue a list of lands open to hunting on an annual basis. Hunting shall only take place within the boundaries of these lands.
- B. The Conservation Commission will determine the number of hunter permits available on an annual basis based on an evaluation of the conservation properties and recent hunting data. The number of available permits shall be announced on the Conservation website prior to the start of the season. If necessary, based on the number of hunter applications, the Commission may implement a lottery system for issuance of permits.
- C. Hingham residents not selected as part of the lottery process will be automatically eligible for a restricted hunter permit on those conservation lands designated by the Conservation Commission (lands open to hunting and acquired without state funding.) Proper identification for residency shall be required and will be verified by the Conservation office.
- D. Hunting Application
 - 1) Interested 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.
 - 2) An individual permit can be revoked or denied by the Conservation Officer, police, or designee for cause.
 - 3) Applications will be accepted in person, by mail, or submitted electronically.
 - 4) Stand/Blind ID tags and Hunting Permit cards must be picked up by the hunter in person.
 - 5) Application requirements include:
 - For all applications:
 - a. Completed Town of Hingham Bow Hunting Application Form.
 - b. A copy of a valid Hunting or Sporting License issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
 - c. A copy of the hunter's driver's license.
 - For deer hunting applications:
 - d. 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.
 - e. 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:
 - f. A copy of a valid Turkey Permit issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- E. All State hunting rules and regulations apply.
 - 1) No stalking or baiting animals is permitted.
 - 2) Traps, nets, and snares are prohibited.
 - 3) Stands and blinds shall be placed at least 150 feet from any road or designated walking trail and 500 feet from any occupied building.
 - 4) No flagging tape may be used to mark trails, however the use of bright eyes tacks/glow tacks is allowed.
 - 5) 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.

F. Stands and Blinds

- 1) Stands and blinds may be placed on designated conservation lands no more than 16 days prior to the start of hunting season subject to any cap imposed hereunder. Hunters who install their stands or blinds before this timeframe will forfeit their Hunting Permit for that hunting season, for both turkey and deer.
- 2) Stand/Blind ID tags will be limited to a maximum of two tags.
- 3) Hunters will report the location of their stands or blinds to the Conservation office upon installation, providing GPS coordinates and a map image with pin.
- 4) Screw in steps are prohibited.
- 5) Stands and blinds shall be removed within 7 days of the end of each hunting season. Hunters who fail to remove their stands or blinds within this timeframe, unless otherwise approved by the Conservation office based on a written request, will not be eligible for a hunter permit in the next hunting season, for both turkey and deer.
- 6) No stand or blind shall be permitted to remain on conservation land between authorized hunting seasons and any stand or blind not removed hereunder shall be deemed abandoned.
- 7) A Stand/Blind ID tag shall be displayed on each stand or blind so the tag can be viewed from the ground.

G. Hunters shall at all times carry a Town-issued Hunting Permit card.

H. 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.

I. Any illegal stands or blinds shall be reported to the Conservation Office. Whenever possible, a picture and GPS coordinates should be supplied.

J. 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, subject to permit availability, provided a complete application is submitted by the application deadline.

K. Deer hunters shall complete and submit hunter log sheets, which include a record of hunting activities, volunteer activities, and wildlife or other observations. Hunter log sheets shall be submitted to the Conservation office at the end of the hunting season.

*All hunters are strongly encouraged to spend two volunteer hours per year providing services to maintain conservation lands. Volunteer service may include trash pickup, trail clearing, locating illegal stands/blinds, or other projects approved by the Conservation Officer.

Adopted September 8, 2014

Revised August 14, 2017, August 3, 2020, September 13, 2021, July 7, 2025