

**SHERBORN BOARD OF HEALTH
PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH
BEAVERS / MUSKRATS**

1. If a resident believes he/she has a problem caused by beavers or muskrats, he/she should contact the Board of Health and apply for a 10-Day Emergency Permit.

a. If the beaver dam is not located on your property, you must include a “Property Owner’s Consent Form” with the application.

2. The Health Agent will investigate the complaint and complete a “Beaver or Muskrat Complaint Data Sheet”, and will either deny or approve the issuance of a permit.

a. DENIAL – If the application for a 10-Day Emergency Permit is denied, you will be provided with a “Notice of Denial of Emergency Permit under M.G.L. c.131, s.80A” from the Board of Health.

- If the reason for the denial is that the Board of Health deems there is no threat to public health and safety, the applicant may appeal the decision by contacting the Dept. of Public Health (DPH) at 617-624-5757 within 10-days of the Board of Health denial.
- If the reason for the denial is that the Board of Health deems the problem is not caused by a beaver or muskrat, the applicant may appeal the decision by contacting the Division of Fisheries & Wildlife (DFW) Field Headquarters at 508-389-6300 within 10-days of the Board of Health denial.

The Agency to which you submit the appeal (DPH or DWF) will re-evaluate the situation and determine if further action is warranted.

b. APPROVAL – If the application for a 10-Day Emergency Permit is approved, you will receive a “10-Day Emergency Beaver or Muskrat Permit” from the Board of Health. This permit is valid for 10 consecutive days ONLY.

- Board of Health approval on the FRONT ONLY of the permit allows a licensed trapper to use a conibear or box or cage-type trap for the taking of beaver or muskrat, subject to M.G.L. c. 131, s.80.
- If the applicant wishes to either have the dam breached or have water-flow device(s) installed, the applicant must attach a written Emergency Certification from the Sherborn Conservation Commission to the Permit and return it to the Board of Health for Board of Health approval of those methods on the REVERSE SIDE of the permit.

3. If the 10-Day Emergency Permit has expired and the problem has not been resolved, the applicant shall apply to the DFW for a “30-Day Extension Permit”. The Board of Health must also sign this application and you must send it to the DFW with copies of all paperwork and permits filed with the Board of Health. Call the DFW at 508-389-6300 to be advised where to mail this information.

a. While waiting for a 30-Day Extension Permit to be issued by the DFW, you can apply for up to two (2) additional 10-Day Emergency Permits through the Board of Health. The first “10-

Day Additional Emergency Beaver or Muskrat Permit” allows the permittee to continue to alleviate a threat to public health or safety located at the address referenced on the permit for 10 consecutive days from the issuance of the additional permit.

- b. If a 2nd Additional Emergency Permit is necessary, the applicant shall request that approval from the Board of Health. The Board of Health will sign the original additional permit issued (see 3-a above). The 2nd Additional Emergency Permit allows the permittee to continue to alleviate a threat to public health and safety, *excluding the use of Conibear type traps*, for 10 consecutive days from the issuance of the 2nd additional permit.

4. If the DFW has issued a “30-Day Extension Permit”, the permittee can use all three (3) solutions that were available under the initial 10-day permit (see 2-b) to resolve the beaver or muskrat problem. In addition, the DFW will provide a long-term plan to address the beaver problem using non-lethal methods.

NOTE: Permits issued by the Board of Health, Conservation Commission, and DFW *do not* allow permittee(s) or their authorized agent(s) to trespass on private property. If beavers are not located on your property, you must obtain the property owner’s permission to access their land (see 1-a).