



Welcome, Patrick Hogan

Assistant Conservation Agent

Where did you work prior to coming to Dedham?

Most recently I worked for the Neponset River Watershed Association as a Water Resource Professional.

How many years of experience do you have working as in environmental management and conservation?

I have 9 years of experience: 3 years at Roanoke, 4 years at Durham, and 2 years at the Neponset River Watershed Association.

What are your goals as the new Assistant Conservation Agent?

I'd like to develop into a good resource for the processes and regulations our office is involved with, both for other Town personnel and the public. I want to develop the kind of inherent knowledge of the regulations that allows me to quickly and easily respond to questions in an understandable way.

What aspect of this role are you most excited about?

I'm excited to work with the public again. Permitting processes can often be tedious and environmental regulations can be confusing. Helping individuals understand why environmental regulations and permits are important and necessary, while also helping them make sense of the processes they need to go through, is very rewarding for me.

What are some challenges you have faced in your current role and past role(s) in during the pandemic and how have you overcome them?

In my previous role, we began working from home when the pandemic hit. Like a lot of people, that was a major adjustment for me. I found that setting a schedule with regular, personal check-ins on my tasks helped me to stay motivated and productive.

Are there local initiatives or programs you have organized in your past roles that you would like to start here in Dedham?

I have not yet organized any official programs for the public, but I think most of our interaction with the public is already part of necessary and well-defined processes. Although it is not a formal initiative, I am excited to help the public and staff foster an understanding of the regulations and why they're important.

What are your hobbies/interests when not at work?

Spending time with family is my favorite thing to do. I follow football, baseball, and NASCAR very closely. I also like to run several times a week, usually early in the morning.

Do you have a mantra you often refer to or live by that keeps you motivated and energized?

Two quotes come to mind that fit my personal and professional goals:

- I was recently watching an episode of "Ted Lasso" and heard the quote: "**Be curious, not judgmental.**" - **Walt Whitman**. This stuck out to me as it succinctly reminds me of how I want to be.
- I heard a story once about a Cowboys game from the 90s where Jay Novacek turned while running a route and there were so many defenders in the backfield he couldn't see Troy Aikman. Troy threw the ball to him anyway and Jay made a positive play out of it. Jay later asked Troy why he threw it and Troy just shrugged and said, "**I knew you'd be there.**" I aim to be someone everyone else can count on, blindly.

