Acworth’s Water Quality Protection Regulations

Wetlands
State of New Hampshire permits are required for all excavation, removal, dredging, filling or construction in or on the bank of any fresh surface water or wetlands. Surface waters include lakes, rivers, brooks and perennial and seasonal streams. Wetlands are areas saturated with ground or surface water enough to support certain vegetation which grows in saturated soil conditions. Questions: Call the NH Wetlands Bureau, 271-2147. Applications: Acworth Town Clerk.

Shoreland Protection Act
All property within 250 feet of the banks of Crescent Lake is subject to the State of New Hampshire’s Shoreland Protection Act. Among other things, this Act requires certain setbacks for all buildings and leachfields, maintenance of a natural woodland buffer, minimum lot frontage, and restrictions on the use of fertilizers. NH Wetland permits are needed for construction/repair of docks/piers. Prepare early in case you permit takes awhile to be issued. Questions: Call Jody Connor at DES, 271-3514. Applications: See Acworth Town Clerk.

Acworth’s Conservation Zone
In addition to the above, and per Acworth’s Conservation Zone regulations established in 1973, no buildings may be constructed within 100 feet of all streambanks, lakes, and ponds (natural and artificial). Only specific other uses are permitted within this range. Permit denial by the Planning Board may be taken to the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) for special enumerated exceptions after review by the Acworth Conservation Commission.

For More Information
Please check with the Planning Board (Rich Bishop, Chair), Conservation Commission (Sam Stephens, Chair), or Selectmen (Lyman Young, Chair) if you are unsure whether or not you need a permit for activities such as logging, building or expanding a driveway, installing culverts, replacing or creating a dock or pier, or construction/renovations of any sort. Landowners are responsible for knowing the proper procedures required on any and all work done on their property. In addition, contractors are held responsible for following all state and town permitting procedures and best management practices.

The Acworth Newsletter has all town committee meeting dates posted on the back sheet of each issue.
Con Com (2nd Wed) Planning Bd (4th Wed) BOS (alt Mondays) ZBA (as needed)