

UPPER VALLEY CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS

REPORT 2018



includes:

- ✓ Lists of Conservation Commissions Contacts in NH & VT
- ✓ Reports of Conservation Commissions 2017 Activities
- ✓ UVLT Conserved Properties Map
- ✓ UVLT Staff Directory
- ✓ Conservation Easements – Frequently Asked Questions

sponsored by:



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Bradford Conservation Commission 2017

We were very fortunate to welcome Bob Claflin as our newest member this year! The following summarizes our activities in 2017:

Management:

- County Forester David Paganelli assessed the potential for timber harvesting. Result: not at this time;
- Wrights MT/Devil's Den Town Forest Management Plan updated to reflect changes since 2010
- With Selectboard approval, plans were made to improve access to the WM/DD trails by expanding 2 parking lots;
- With Selectboard approval, BCC applied for and received a \$10,000 Technical Assistance Grant from the VT Town Forest Recreation Planning Community Assistance Program. A Steering Committee was convened of BCC members, neighbors and professional resources; to learn more about this project, visit <http://www.uvm.edu/extension/afence/?m=20171101> for an episode that aired on "Across the Fence" on WCAX TV.

Stewardship

- A Spring pruning workshop was held at Elizabeth's Park led by John Hanzas
- 2 maples were planted on the BA lawn by JM Landscaping via a Caring for Canopy Grant from FPR;
- OHS Students & Staff groomed WM/DD trails in May as a Community Service Project;
- June's Annual Race to the Top, led by Rick Evans, included 52 kids & 42 adults. BEST EVER!
- 1500 New map/brochures have been printed for kiosks with support from 14 Bradford businesses;
- "Cindy's Trail" was extended to form a 0.9 mi loop by Upper Valley Trails Alliance Trail Corps students and BCC Members;
- In preparation for expanding the parking lot, trees were cleared at the Wrights MT Trailhead

Conservation

- With Selectboard approval, the Conservation Fund By-Laws were amended to include enhancing access to trails, thus enabling funding for tree removal at Wrights MT Trailhead;
- Just under \$10,000 was raised this year via fund-raising events, including Marchi Gras Dinner & Auction, Annual Yard Sale, Annual Appeal, 2018 Calendar, & 15th Annual Buck-A-Pie Week at Colatina Exit.

Information and Education

- The focus this year was on Pollinators. To that end:
 - a. BCC, in collaboration with Bradford Public Library, sponsored "The Round & the Furry" a public presentation about bees given by the VT Center for Ecostudies;
 - b. In collaboration with Upper Valley Land Trust and the Hanover Conservation Commission, BCC delivered pollinator plants to area schools for pollinator gardens;
 - c. BCC received free vegetable seeds from High Mowing Seeds which were started by River Bend students and donated to the Bradford Community Garden.
 - d. With the help of Dave McLam, Duane Burgess and JM landscaping, BCC's award-winning parade float was about pollinators.
- BCC's Annual Friends of Wrights MT \$500 Scholarship was awarded this year to Natalie Barton;
- BCC's 1st Monday Movie series continued, with participants at the September and October movies donating proceeds to Hurricane Relief programs in Houston and St. Croix, USVI.

Beautification

- Plantings on the Library bank included replacing a hydrangea bush that was damaged and a flowering crab apple tree;
- A donation was made to the Bradford Business Association for flowering plants for the planter boxes in the Downtown Area;

Energy

- Solar-Powered holiday lights were donated to the Bradford Business Association for the Downtown Area;
- Renewable Energy Curriculum and Materials were purchased and donated to classes at Bradford Elementary School.

Nancy Jones, Chair
Bradford Conservation Commission
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Canaan Conservation Commission

2017 Annual Report

In addition to the usual business of reviewing construction permits & site visits to approve said permits as required by NH DES, the Canaan Conservation Commission also accomplished the following in 2017:

- Sponsored the 11th annual Earth Day Roadside Cleanup. We succeeded in removing over 40 bags of trash, as well as a variety of appliances, tires, & scrap metal from the sides of the streets of our town.
- We continue to maintain the trail system in the Town Forest.
- In partnership with the Mascoma Watershed Conservation Council (MWCC), our members led a series of monthly hikes to various locations within the town of Canaan as well as other locations in the watershed. We also partnered to host Stephen Long, who presented on his book “Thirty Eight.” Over 50 people turned out for the reading and discussion.
- Represented the town of Canaan on the Mascoma River Local Advisory Committee.
- Monitored easements on properties within Canaan, as well as surrounding communities for the Upper Valley Land Trust, as well as the McKee parcel for NHDES.
- Attended various meetings of MWCC, as well as other organizations.
- Volunteered and provided financial support for the Connecticut River Conservancy’s “Source to Sea” river cleanup. We removed over 20 bags of trash, as well as several large items from a mile stretch of the Mascoma River and its neighboring walking trail in Lebanon.
- Volunteered over 250 hours to projects in the community.

Respectfully submitted by,
Bill Chabot, Chair
Canaan Conservation Commission

Claremont Conservation Commission

Chair: Gary Dickerman

9 Arch Rd.

Claremont, NH 03743

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Contact: deForest Bearse

Claremont Planning and Development Dept.

14 North St. Claremont, NH 03743

603-504-0341

dbearse@claremontnh.com

2017 Activities:

- Stevens Brook Conservation Easement
 - survey, signage, initiate trail development process
 - Trash Removal
 - Update annual monitoring process and reporting
- Create Pollinator Garden at corner of Chestnut St. and Broad St.
- Develop Natural Resource Chapter of Claremont Master Plan
- Hazardous tree removal along Bobby Woodman Trail
- Initiate meeting with NH Fish & Game Dept. to discuss improvements to Ashley Ferry Boat Landing
- Developed a Conservation Plan
- Wetlands Permit Application Reviews
 - Citizen Street culvert & bank stabilization
 - 492 Washington Street
 - Rice Reservoir Spillway
 - Dry hydrant at High Bridge
 - Cat Hole Road culvert
- Lafayette Street Pond Dredging Proposal Consultation
- T-Shirts
- Community Service Day – trash pick-up on Rail Trail
- Workshops Attended
 - Easement Monitoring Workshop
 - Saving Special Places
 - Pollinator Garden Series at Montshire Museum

For 2018:

- Stevens Brook Conservation Easement
 - Trail development, water monitoring, student involvement
- Create Pollinator Gardens
- Invasive Species Eradication Plan
- Network with other Conservation Commissions on Invasive Species Issues

Corinth Conservation Commission Annual Report

The Corinth Conservation Commission (CCC) is a group of volunteers working to protect and preserve the natural environment of Corinth while promoting wise land use. Appointed by the select board, we maintain trails and sponsor educational programs to encourage appreciation and enhance understanding of the town's natural environment.

The winter of 2017 started off with our annual tracking workshop which was held at the Roots School and led by Brad Salon. We followed that educational program with another fascinating talk and demonstration by Kevin Gardner on the history and techniques of stone wall building in New England. In the early part of the year, the FX Shea Town Forest Committee completed its work on the forest management plan and was merged with the Conservation Commission, who will now oversee management and implementation of the Town Forest.

Spring time began with a good turnout for Green Up Day, with the Conservation Commission assisting our town Green Up Day coordinator and all the residents who volunteer to collect trash from our roadsides. As the weather warmed, a group of volunteers moved on to tending the Corinth orchard, sixteen apple trees and four pear trees planted in the field behind the Town Hall. As a result of their annual efforts at weeding and mulching, the orchard is on its way to becoming a beautiful, and hopefully, fruitful resource for the town. The trees were purchased with a state grant and are maintained through donations of time and materials from residents. Along with the orchard project, the CCC organizes trail work in the FX Shea Town Forest, as well as on the Clement Loop Trail and the Roaring Ridge Trail, all wonderful places to walk and explore that are open to the public year round.

In addition to these ongoing projects, and with generous help from volunteers, the CCC oversees the Cookeville Mall located next to the post office. It is a place where community members may bring useful household items in good condition that are no longer needed so that they may find a home with someone else and avoid going to the landfill. The Cookeville Mall operates on Saturday mornings from May to October. In a similar vein and in order to keep up with Act 148, Vermont's new Universal Recycling Law that mandates that food waste be kept out of trash, the CCC has begun educating residents on the requirements of the law. We have conducted surveys at the town transfer station about the current composting and recycling habits of residents, and we have shared the state's time table for implementing the new law. The Conservation Commission is committed to helping all residents move toward composting food scraps and recycling and reusing materials in order to reduce the amount of trash we send to our landfills. Look for future programs on Act 148 in the spring and summer of 2018.

The Conservation Commission raises money for its projects by redeeming bottles collected at the transfer station. Each week a different member of the commission takes a turn hauling the bottles to Bradford. We would like to thank Dutton Voight and Asa Porter, who also volunteer for this somewhat odoriferous task, and to all who donate their bottles to us. Each year at town meeting we ask that the town appropriate a small sum to support the functions of the CCC and its mission, which helps us when we apply for state and federal grants that often require evidence of local monetary support for eligibility.

The CCC wishes to thank the town for its support of us and our projects and welcomes all residents to attend our meetings, which are always open to the public, and are held on the first Monday of each month at the Corinth Town Hall at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Glynn Pellagrino, Chair

Cornish Conservation Commission
Year Ending Dec. 31, 2017

Colleen O'Neill received the 2016 Annual Cornish Conservation Award at last year's Town Meeting. This award recognized Colleen's efforts in managing her Certified Tree Farm which includes a beautiful trail network. She has done extensive work on her property including habitat improvements and wildlife openings, invasive plant removal, logging, apple tree release and planting, as well as delayed mowing of her fields to benefit nesting birds. She was also recognized for her many contributions to the rural character and spirit of the Cornish community.

The Monitoring Committee, chaired by Rickey Poor, scheduled and completed monitoring walks on all seven conserved properties that the Town of Cornish is first easement holder. No violations of easement terms were found. The Commission continues to appreciate the cooperation of the landowners in scheduling these walks and especially appreciates the number of landowners who accompany us.

The Education Committee held a GPS training program run by GPS specialist Andrew Thompson. Once again the Commission also purchased the volunteer program books for the Four Winds Nature Program at the Cornish Elementary School (grades pre-K to 4th). Funding came from the Palmer Fund. The Commission co-sponsored, with the Town Forest Committee, a hike in the Town Forest for members of the Society for the Protection of NH Forest during their annual meeting.

As a follow-up to the water testing done by the Commission in 2016, the CCC consulted with the Selectmen and Jeff Katchen, Public Health Officer, who then ran some additional tests in one stream in Town. No problem was found.

Will Stevenson volunteered to use his drone to take multiple areal pictures of the CREA property. The pictures will be used to improve our management of the area. Several pictures are currently on the CCC website and additional ones will be posted on a soon-to-be created You Tube site.

Appointed Members

Jim Barker, Chairman
Bill Gallagher, Vice Chairman
Rickey Poor,
Corey Fitch, Treasurer

Steven Wilkie
Dale Rook
Jenny Schad

Alternates

John Berry
Deanna Fitch
Bob Taylor

Kim Patterson
Reyer Jaarsma
Stuart Wilkie- Secretary

John Hammond, Select Board Representative

Town: Grantham

Conservation Commission Chair: David Wood

Contact info: PO Box 1007, Grantham, NH 03753

(603) 865-7473; cadawood@comcast.net

The creation of nature trails in Brookside Park and completion of a bridge connecting the parking lot with a wheelchair accessible trail and rest area beside the brook remains the chief accomplishment of the Commission in 2016-2017. Within the park members of the Grantham Garden Club continue to improve the apple orchard with a pollinator garden.

In 2017, the Commission hired Laura French of Meadowsend Consulting to update the 2007 Forest Management Plan for the Grantham Town Forest. Her report explains that New Hampshire in general and the Town Forest in particular lack the habitat diversity essential to maximize wildlife. Wildlife does best when fields, shrub lands, young forests and mature stands are all available in reasonable proximity. To improve habitat in the Town Forest, she recommends clearing eight or so patches ranging in size from 4 to 11 acres. Several mature trees would be left in each patch to provide seed and perch, but most of the trees would be removed allowing the patches to become early successional forest. She proposes clearing a different 40-50 acres 10-15 years later and so on until the Town Forest becomes a patchwork of mixed ages ranging from young saplings to mature 100 year old trees. The Commission has accepted her recommendation and hopes to initiate the cutting in the winter of 2018-19, hopefully at a small profit to the town.

A similar logging project had been planned for the Smith Lot during the winter of 2016-17 but was postponed because of the mid-winter thaw. That operation is now planned for 2017-18 and should result in better parking, a new loop trail and a large clearing around the old cemetery. Again, it is anticipated that the operation will not only improve the value of the Lot for recreation and wildlife habitat, but also generate a small profit.

During the year the Commission also stained the bridge and installed a Little Free Library at Brookside Park, cleared the Brookside trails after storms, led hikes in Sherwood and the Town Forest, sponsored a talk on Emerald Ash Borer, and assisted in the creation of a pollinator garden at Brookside and new trails at the Grantham Village School. Other routine activities of the Commission this year included the review of numerous cutting and "dredge and fill" applications, the monitoring the Smith Lot and Sherwood Forest, discussion with local land owners to increase conserved land and participation in Old Home Day.

The protection of open space for recreational use and wildlife habitat remain the long range objective of the Commission.

UPPER VALLEY LAND TRUST CONSERVATION COMMISSION GATHERING 2018

- Name of Town: **Hanover**
- Conservation Commission Chair: Jim Kennedy 603-795-4633
50 Rennie Road James.Kennedy@Valley.Net
Etna, NH 03750
- Preferred contact person: Vicki Smith 603-640-3214
PO Box 483 Vicki.Smith@HanoverNH.org
Hanover, NH 03755

List your Commission's activities during 2017

Meetings

- Commissioners met 14 times for regular meetings
- Three sub-committees, Trails, Stewardship and BioDiversity, met regularly
- Commission members also participate on other town committees including the Trescott Company Lands Recreation Committee, Pine Park Association, Balch Hill Stewardship Committee, Hayes Farm Park Stewardship Committee, Hanover Deer Team, and Hanover Planning Board

Regulatory

- Nine site visits to locations requiring wetlands permitting and town properties
- Commented on eleven wetlands applications to Hanover ZBA and/or NH DES

Land conservation

- Monitored 23 conservation easements, and followed up as needed

Land and trail management

- With the assistance of an active Trails Committee, other volunteers and the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, maintained 108 miles of trail
- Supported the work on Moose Mountain Ridge to formalize and protect the existing trail
- Participated in the recreation management and improvement of trails at the Trescott Company lands; including construction of a new trail bridge and new trail in Trescott Company lands and initiation of a trails master plan for the Trescott Company lands
- Revised and adopted the Trail Maintenance Policy
- Coordinated with other trail maintainers: UV Land Trust, Hanover Conservancy, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, UV Trails Alliance, Dartmouth Outing Club
- Held a number of trail work days to construct a new bridge across Slade Brook, a new boardwalk off Woodcock Lane in the Trescott wetlands, treadway improvements at Indian Ridge and installation of new trail signs
- Held management planning meetings for Hayes Farm Park
- Continued work on Town Forest management plan including site visit along Tunis Road
- Hired professional and organized volunteer work groups to clear invasives at Hayes Farm Park, Rinker Steele Natural Area, Pleasant Street Slope, and Balch Hill Natural Area
- Experimented with techniques to control poison ivy at Mink Brook
- Supported management of deer herd at Balch Hill and Trescott Lands with Hanover Conservancy and Dartmouth College

Education/outreach

- Garlic Mustard control initiative- neighborhood organizing, continued work with landowners and website

- Organized of a series of workshops and events associated with native pollinators with the goal of establishing 100 new pollinator gardens
- Worked with NH Fish and Game to make more doe permits available for deer herd management in Hanover

Briefly describe the projects/issues your Commission plans to tackle in 2018

- New edition of town trail map
- Addition of trails to UVTa Trail Finder app
- Initiate a trillium monitoring program as an indicator of deer browse
- Continue improvement of the Trescott Lands trails
- Continue work on protecting the Moose Mountain Ridge Trail
- Continue work on the Indian Ridge Trail and complete planned projects on Cory Road, across Monahan Brook and on Old Highway 38
- Establish consistent trail signs and install them throughout the town trail network
- Complete management plans for Town Forest, Hayes Farm Park and South Esker Natural Area
- Mobilize management committees for these properties
- Develop strategy to complete protection of farmland in Etna Village

Topics/challenges you'd like to network about with other Conservation Commissioners

- Invasive removal

Notes:

- The Conservation Commission has seven members.
- The Commission could not do its work without the help of many, many volunteers who serve on committees and offer their labor and good spirit at trail and biodiversity work days.
- The Commission is also lucky to have staff support from Vicki Smith, the Town's Senior Planner and the support of the Planning Office, the Town Manager and the Selectboard for our work.

Hartford Conservation Commission

The Hartford Conservation Commission (HCC) was established in 1990 to inventory natural resources, maintain and preserve natural areas, protect valuable wildlife habitat, monitor scenic areas and watershed areas, educate and increase awareness of conservation, and encourage recreation consistent with the preservation of the natural beauty of Hartford.

The HCC also manages the 423-acre Hartford Town Forest, the Maanawaka Conservation Area and the David Chang Conservation Area. We hope you get out and enjoy these wonderful parcels and treat them with respect. Please contact us if you see maintenance or abuse issues so we can organize restoration or clean-up.

FY-2017 Members of the HCC included Jon Bouton (chair), Shawn Kelley, Mary Hutchins, Dana Hazen, Tom Kahl, Angela Emerson and Cassidy Neal. If you have any questions about the Conservation Commission, please contact Hartford Planner Matt Osborn (295-3075) or mosborn@hartford-vt.org

Projects in the Town Forests

Our Land Management Subcommittee composed of mountain bikers, runners, other trail users and HCC members continues to assess trails and their impacts on natural resources and processes.

Received a grant from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to undertake a planning process on Town Forest Recreation.

Worked with Hartford High School student Keith Illingworth on trail corridor clearing and repairs.

Organized the annual Trails Day to maintain trails in the HTF.

Outreach and Education

Developed a brochure: "Living with Bears".

Led a vernal pool educational walk in the Hartford Town Forest (HTF).

Had an information booth for the Hartford Block Party and Town Meeting Day

Led a Forest Resilience Walk at the Maanawaka Conservation Area as part of the Hartford Resilience Week.

Other Ongoing Projects within the HCC

Green-Up Day: Town Sponsor. 401 volunteers collected 4.3 tons of waste.

Working with landowners interested in conserving their land.

Organized natural resource information and developing criteria for town-wide natural resource review.

Participation with Town and Regional Groups

Ottawaquechee River and White River water quality sampling.

Participated in the Clean Water Advisory Committee of the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission.

Participated in planning the Ottawaquechee River Watershed initiative spearheaded by the Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission.

Participated in a Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission/Vermont Agency of Natural Resources meeting about Regional Wildlife.

Participated in the Vermont BioFinder Workshop.

Helped promote work of the Upper Valley Pollinators.

Participated in review of a proposed Riverwalk trail in White River Junction.

Participated on the Save Dewey's Pond Committee.

Working on various projects with other town boards including the Planning Commission, Tree Board, Community Resilience Organization and Energy Commission.

Hartland, VT Conservation Commission

Chair/Contact: Rob Anderegg
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2017 Activities

- Provided a significant local match from the Conservation Trust Fund to conserve 96 acres on Garvin Hill with the Richardson family and the Upper Valley Land Trust.
- Completed the management plan for the Summarsell Gateway Preserve (adjacent to the Park & Ride at Exit 9), including conducting several site visits to inventory flora and fauna there throughout the seasons.
- Hosted a walk at Sumner's Falls Town Park with local historian Jay Boeri.
- Removed invasive plants in the Lull's Brook streamside buffer area by the library and soccer field.
- Formed a sub-committee with the Hartland Elementary School to work on better trail access to the 17-Acre Wood and outdoor classroom area; worked with trail contractors Timber & Stone to create a cost estimate for trail design work.
- Continued water quality testing for *E. coli* and phosphorous at 6 locations in Hartland 3 times during the year; and sent notice when *E. coli* levels were high.
- Hosted a Hartland Community Connections Breakfast on *Planting Pollinator Gardens*.
- Hosted a Conservation Commission booth at Old Home Day, including an interactive demonstration stream table explaining river dynamics.
- Co-sponsored Green-Up Day.
- Presented the annual Hartland Conservation Award at Town Meeting to Karl Kemnitzer for his work with the Hartland Energy Committee.
- Began work with TRORC on Ottauquechee River and Lull's Brook flood resilience.

2018 Plans

- Send an informational letter to landowners along streams and wetlands regarding the importance of riparian buffers.
- Create a Guide to Hartland Public Parks and Natural Areas.
- Conduct a waterway cleanup of Lull's Brook in September.
- Assist Connecticut River Conservancy in planning a grant for revegetation along Lull's Brook near the Hartland Town Garage.
- Assist UVLT in conserving Howe Farm.

LEBANON CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2017 REPORT

Relative to Lands and Trails:

- The Conservation Commission oversaw the maintenance and management of over 1800 acres of city-owned conservation land which contains over 21 miles of public trails.
- Annual Property Boundary Line Blazing
- Brush hog work: Signal Hill, Jackson Property, Lebrun Meadow
- Clean up and monitoring of illegal camp sites (K-Mart)
- Scout & Rotary Club trail maintenance on Ticknor property
- Inspection & monitoring reports (UVLT, SPNHF, LCHIP)

Relative to Open Space Protection:

- In partnership with UVLT, used DES ARM Fund grant monies, combined with Lebanon LOST account funds, to support the purchase and permanent protection of the Ticknor North woodlands.

Relative to Permits and Regulations:

- The Conservation Commission commented on 5 State Wetlands Permit Applications.
- The Planning Office issued 28 camping permits for the Boston Lot.
- Continued Role as Interested Party to the FERC Wilder Dam relicensing process.

Misc:

- Initiated Lebanon Open Space Plan
- Continued dialogue with City Manager's office, regarding Mt Support fence removal

LYME CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Trails and Land Management

Several Town properties managed by the Conservation Commission were damaged by the extreme rain event that struck Lyme on Saturday, July 1st. The footbridge connecting the Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary with the Chase Beach recreation area was lifted off its footings by Trout Brook's raging, rain swollen water. Boardwalk segments in the Chaffee's woodland trail that were floated out of alignment had to be reset. The Trout Pond Forest access road leading from the end of Hardscrabble Lane to the Trout Pond trailhead was eroded and had to be re-graded. In Big Rock Preserve, rain-swollen Grant Brook caused considerable erosion that will require relocating part of the preserve's trail in 2018.

Project and Application Review

At the request of the ZBA and the Planning Board, the Commission made several site visits. These principally reviewed the potential impact of work that would be conducted in shoreline protection zones or wetland buffers.

Outreach and Education

The Commission appropriated \$9587 from the Conservation Fund to cover the Town's 2017 cost of Eurasian milfoil treatment at Post Pond. The Commission also organized and funded a botanical survey of the Town's holding at Holt's Ledge when it became known that critically endangered native plant species likely were on the property. The Commission continued to facilitate an "outdoor classroom" project for the Lyme School's Third Grade class in Big Rock Preserve. Other events sponsored and hosted by the Commission during the year included its annual snowshoe walk in February, "Green Up Day," a wildflower walk in May and "Trails Day" in June. In mid-summer, a pollinator garden was planted in the Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary. It successfully flowered in the fall.

Commission 2017 Membership

Blake Allison (Chair), Russell Hirschler (Vice Chair), Matt Stevens (Secretary) Other voting members included Tom Colgan, James Munroe, Margaret Sheehan and Jay Smith (Select Board Rep.). Alternates were Joanna Jaspersohn, MaryBeth Keifer and Lee Larson.

More information about the Commission, its properties and activities can be found at:

<http://www.lymenh.gov/conservation-commission>



Grant Brook – Main Channel Erosion



Trout Brook flooding on July 1, 2017 – this is why we have flood plains.



Displaced Trout Brook Footbridge

- Blake Allison is the Lyme Conservation Commission's Chair.
- He can be reached through e-mail at: conservation@lymenh.gov. Phone messages can be directed to him by calling the Select Board office: 603-795-4639. Mail should go to Conservation Commission, Town of Lyme, One High Street, Lyme 03768
- Invasive plant species control remains a priority. We are continuing Eurasian milfoil eradication treatments at Post Pond. In partnership with the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA), we will be replacing the boardwalk in the Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary. Also in The Chaffee, we will be re-siting the footbridge that spanned Trout Brook connecting The Chaffee with the town recreation facilities and beach, it was floated off its footings due to Trout Brook's flooding caused by the July 1, 2017 deluge. Another remediation project with the UVTA will be to relocate part of the trail in The Big Rock Preserve. Last July's flooding caused erosion of Grant Brook that has brought Grant Brook up within three feet of the trail.
- We would be interested to hear about what other Commissions are doing to combat "invasives."

Norwich, Vermont

The NCC has a rotating chair and can be contacted
at NorwichConservationCommission@gmail.com

Over the past year the commission has co-sponsored Norwich Bird Week and Upper Valley Native Pollinators series of presentations and workshops, supported environmental education at the elementary school, worked with the village nature area committee on nature area projects, including a reassessment of the forest composition and structure, continued work with the Prudential Committee and the Connecticut River Watershed Council on riparian invasive plants control and potential Charles Brown Brook dam removal, developed and posted on-line more fact sheets to help residents recognize and control common invasive plant species, implemented plots in New Boston testing the cutting and digging control of Japanese knotweed, and published articles in the *Norwich Times* on open space, trail etiquette, and wildlife habitats.

In the next year the commission plans to sponsor a Bird Weekend as well as other educational events, post information about additional invasive plant species, write quarterly articles for the *Norwich Times*, and evaluate potential conservation projects aimed at forest connectivity. One of the challenges the commission often faces is having access to the expertise and skills required to engage in and complete useful natural resource inventories.

REPORT OF THE PLAINFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION DECEMBER 2017

The Plainfield Conservation Commission (PCC) is an advisory commission to the Plainfield Select Board. This year the commission concentrated on planning and improving the signage within the French's Ledges trail system. As we were completing our "normal" duties, e.g., monitoring the public lands within the town's boundaries and stewarding our town's wetlands, we heard feedback that the trail system is difficult to use by some of our users enjoying the French's Ledges experience.

The most frequent challenge voiced was, "There are so many trails and so many intersections. We don't know which way to go when we come to one intersection after another. We get so lost we're afraid to walk in there again. And, we want to walk in there again!"

This dilemma is a challenge since this is a multi-use, recreation area offering multiple opportunities for so many at any time of day. It is extremely important that a trail user knows where they are in the trail system! How can we organize a space where everyone (no matter their capabilities/experience) has the freedom to enjoy what they can when they want to?

There are so many "moving parts" within the boundaries of the French's Ledges trail system: unfettered access to public and private land (twelve separate landowners) without obvious boundary lines; people on bicycles, skis, or foot moving at full speed or slowly; dogs on- or off-leash; toddlers to senior citizens; strenuous, hilly terrain or flat; etc. How do we make all of this work well to the majority's satisfaction and keep everyone safe and happy?

The PCC's preliminary plan for everyone's safety and enjoyment is to...

- Clearly blaze/mark the trails closest to the Townsend Bridge.
- Enhance the current notification system telling all when competitive practice and meets occurs on specific trails. For instance, school competitions will occur during winter cross-country ski season—as well as mountain biking in warmer weather. Currently this website reports the grooming of the snow.

We'll make these enhancements gradually as we learn what is needed to share this space with all abilities and types of usage within the trail system—one trail at a time and one current practice enhancement at a time. **Crucial to the success of these preliminary plans is your considered input.** (See your contacts at the end of this report.)

Phase One: Blaze only the shorter, flatter trails by the bridge for now.

We will blaze the introductory trails by the Townsend Bridge, e.g., school parking-lot kiosk to bridge, Townsend Loop, Brook Loop, Blue Trail to the ledges. We have purchased plastic blazes that are standard trail markers in bright primary colors (e.g., yellow, red, blue, or green) in the shape of a 7-by-5-inch diamond. Each diamond is nailed (with aluminum nails) to both sides of a tree along the trail (about 150 ft. apart) to

mark the entire trail as it wanders through its part of the trail system. The color of the diamond blaze is unique to its trail.

Phase Two: What's next?

We think we know what's next, but need your input. We want to hear from you before we go beyond the few trails by the bridge (e.g., Red Trail from Colby Hill, Smokehouse Loop). For example, we know that some users do not feel the forest should be cluttered with brightly colored, blazed tree stems. They enjoy the pristine landscape with the natural colors and dancing sunlight that only a forest like our forest can provide. We **will not** blaze every trail in the French's Ledges system. Some explorers want to find their own way without relying on maps and signage—using other knowledge/instinct to find their way through the forest.

Also some of our twelve, generous landowners do not want their private property punctuated with signage. It is their understandable right to decline signage.

Another user of the trail system is Kimball Union Academy and Lebanon High School athletic teams. Both of these users involve ski and bicycle competitions at the middle and high school levels. That means someone moving at a fast pace, during practice or competition, and concentrating on the trail in front not any human enjoying that forest trail! These competitive and unique uses of the French's Ledges trails is sanctioned and completely acceptable at those times of year.

The PCC wants to modify the current system whereby an announcement will broadcast when the specific trails will be used for competition and practices. Currently, you can log on to www.meridentrails.org for trail grooming updates, competitions and practice sessions before you venture to the trails on a certain day to enjoy certain trails.

Sharing French's Ledges with all users:

The goal of the PCC is to organize and develop the trail system so the many types of users, types of ownership and modes of recreation coexist seamlessly and without incident on this relatively small piece of earth.

Please be patient and open to our efforts. Contribute your comments, suggestions and time to the volunteer groups that make the Ledges such a special place for us to share with all comers.

On that website mentioned above, you will find that the Plainfield Trailblazers welcome donations.

Respectfully submitted,

Myra Ferguson, Chairman
PCC
(603-469-3399)
pcc@plainfieldnh.org

Commissioners:
Helen Koehler
Judy Ptak
Dave Taylor

David Grobe
Bill Knight
Vicki Ramos-Glew
Alternate: Anne Donaghy

Royalton Conservation Commission 2017

The purposes of the Conservation Commission are to assist the community of Royalton to assess, protect, and enhance its natural resources. Additionally, we may inventory town lands in which the public has an interest, including land with a historic, educational, cultural, scientific, architectural, or archeological value.

The Conservation Commission has been working with the Planning Commission, the Selectboard, and the White River Partnership to consider potential uses for several town-owned tracts of land, including the so called, Crawford property (behind the Town Offices), The Sarnoff property (north of Rt 107), and the White River access sites. We will continue this important work, along with assisting in protection of all natural resources in town.

Green Up Day: Started in 1970, is always the first Saturday of May. Green up Vermont's Mission is to promote the stewardship of our state's natural landscape and waterways and the livability of our communities by involving people in Green Up Day and raising public awareness about the benefits of a litter-free environment. Mark your calendars; Green Up Day is May 5, 2018.

The Royalton Conservation Commission is a member of the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions.

Any Royalton resident or land-owner who is interested in participating in conservation is encouraged to contact the Town Offices or attend any of the posted meetings.

Meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Monday of each month, 6:30 pm, at the Town Offices Meeting Room, unless otherwise posted. Conservation Commission meetings are open to the public.

Members Brad Salzmänn – Chairperson, Hoyt Bingham – Clerk, Bushrod Powers – Treasurer, Mike Bald, David Barker, Ian MacKenzie, Tico Wolff,

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Strafford Conservation Commission (SCC) sponsored or was involved in the following activities in 2017:

- A presentation in January on the dangers to wildlife and plant species posed by current municipal planning strategies, particularly those resulting in forest-fragmentation, which isolate species and limit the diversity necessary for a healthy ecosystem. The speaker was Jens Hawkins-Hilke, conservation planning biologist at the Agency of Natural Resources.
- The initial discussion in February of a plan to commemorate our late colleague John Hemenway's contribution to conservation in general and sustainable forestry practices in particular took place. Consideration was given to purchase a granite bench in his memory.
- In March, three replacements for the SCC Board were appointed by the Selectboard: Steve Faccio (who had formerly served on the SCC from '02 – '13), Tim McCormick and David Paganelli. David, who is the Orange County Forester, was asked to discuss the status of the Strafford Town Forest. He reported that he had been unable to locate a formal management plan, which didn't necessarily mean there hadn't been one at some point. Clearly, however, a current one is needed. He also provided the following historical details about the Town Forest: Encompassing approximately 140 acres, it became a municipal forest in '69. There have been 6 timbers sales, returning \$40,000 in revenue to the Town. Current management tasks should include re-marking the boundaries, confirming the existing trails and conducting a forestry health-check. He said that some towns set up conservation funds with the proceeds from timber sales to make their municipal forests self-sustaining by providing a source of funds for signage, boardwalks, boundary marking and trail maintenance.
- Strafford environmentalist and author, Gus Speth, spoke in May at the Morrill Library on the environmental roll-backs at the national level and what he described as a 'functioning new political ecosystem,' which has sprung up to counteract the efforts to undermine more than a half-century of environmental safeguards.
- In June, SCC member Steve Faccio, lead author in the study, *2017: The Status of Vermont Forest Birds: A Quarter Century of Monitoring*, published by the Vermont Center for Ecostudies, reported on a declining trend in forest bird populations in the state and possible causes of these changes. This study may be found on the Vermont Center for Ecostudies website at www.vtechostudies.org.

- The SCC in July formally moved to proceed with a fund-raising campaign to purchase a granite bench in memory of John Hemenway. In addition, a new state historical marker commemorating the first settlement at Strafford in 1767 was installed at the entrance to the Old City Falls Nature Area. Mike Hebb proposed a plan to make Whitcomb Hill accessible to people who may not be able to reach it by foot, which would require moving them by motor conveyance.
- At the SCC's request, David Paganelli made a special report in September on the incursions of the Emerald Ash Borer, an invasive insect that kills all varieties of native ash trees. Since ashes make up nearly 10 percent of Vermont forests and the depredations of the ash borer result in a 100% mortality rate, this incursion is of grave concern for Vermont. Kate Root and Jared Jenisch reported that the SCC's wetlands team visited and inventoried 8 Strafford wetlands during the year.
- Noting the recent approval of the new Town Plan by the Selectboard, the SCC decided in October to review the SCC's Open Space Plan and the sections of the new Strafford Town Plan pertaining to conservation issues.
- At the November meeting, it was agreed that the Hemenway commemorative bench will be scheduled for installation on the Common this coming spring and a dedication ceremony will be planned. The inscription on the bench will read: *John T. Hemenway 1924-2016/Living on in Forest Time*. 'Forest Time,' a concept John enthusiastically embraced, is time measured at the pace of nature, not on the human life span. So far, \$1,250 has been raised, which should cover the costs. Our special thanks to those who contributed.

The SCC meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Morrill Education Center. Members of the public are always welcome.

The Strafford Conservation Commission has nine members: Mike Hebb, Jared Jenisch, Kate Root, Chuck Sherman, J.T. Horn, Steve Faccio, David Paganelli, Tim McCormick and Steve Willbanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Willbanks, Chair

STRAFFORD TRAILS UPDATE:

The trail system usage appears to be somewhat constant from year to year. Outlying sections like the Podunk area and south end back of the mining cuts get less usage than those with attractive views and easy access. There are always winter travelers enjoying the system but fewer than in summer. The Town Forest loop continues to attract visitors. In June over 100 people come through just to see the prolific orchid bloom.

The combined generosity of just 2 dozen land owners have made the 17 mile town trail system possible. In addition there are 7 volunteers who monitor sections of the trail to keep it well marked, and clear. We are also fortunate that the town road crew clears trail head parking areas regularly, especially after snow storms.

No land owners have complained of problems attributable to the trail since its inception.

We moved about 1.5 miles of trails last summer to bypass some properties and it has resulted in a more aesthetic route in the area of Copperas Hill. Some extra work was needed when a logging operation took place near the trail. Several new land owners acquired land that the trail passed over and we are fortunate that they have been supportive and have allowed the trail to remain on their property. This summer I plan to go over the whole system and repaint the blazes which are wearing thin in places.

We have considered adding more trail to the system but maintenance overhead like the above and the limited availability of volunteers have to be seriously considered. We are open to ideas regardless.

Again the town, the select board and the conservation commission want to thank land owners, trail volunteers and the road crew for your contribution to this resource.

Trail maps can be found here

<http://straffordtrails.yolasite.com/>

Mike Hebb

Strafford Conservation Commission

THETFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION



The Thetford Conservation Commission (TCC) wishes to thank the Town residents for their interest, enthusiasm and support throughout 2017.

The TCC Educational Outreach sponsored programs including:

- Several classes of students at both Thetford Elementary and Thetford Academy learned about the “Big Night” migrations of spring amphibians in April and May.
- Tom Tynning, naturalist author and professor at Berkshire Community College, gave a public presentation about “The Secret Lives of Spring Amphibians” at Thetford Academy in May.
- The second year of the Garlic Mustard project received impressive support from the Thetford community. Sixty volunteers helped pull garlic mustard from the edges of Thetford's roads, giving 183 volunteer hours to the cause.
- The Commission and the Thetford Historical Society co-sponsored the “Reading the Forested Landscape” presentation by Tom Wessels in September.
- Sam Jaffe’s Caterpillar Lab drew more than 100 people from the Thetford and West Fairlee communities for an afternoon of hands-on learning about caterpillars and all they do in our environment.

Special thanks to our educational outreach partners on the West Fairlee Conservation Commission, to Elise Tillinghast for introducing us to the Caterpillar lab and for her support of that event and to all of the dedicated volunteers who pulled garlic mustard for more hours than they may care to remember.



Libby Chapin and Tom Tynning



TA students pulling garlic mustard



Kids of all ages – Caterpillar Lab

In an effort to reduce thatch and promote grassland bird habitat, one of the fields on Post Mills Nature Area was burned by the Thetford Fire Department in early spring. Thank you to Chief Chad Whitcomb and all of the firefighters for their thoughtful preparation and hard work.

The Town of Thetford supported the successful conservation of New Hope Farm through the Upper Valley Land Trust. Conservation of this Thetford farm protects prime agricultural soils along the Connecticut River, a scarce natural resource, for productive farming in perpetuity.

Dr. George Clark led the 6th annual birding walk on the Taylor Floodplain Forest and Cross Road Farm in May. We are grateful to Connie Snyder for continuing to organize this walk and to Janet and Tim Taylor for hosting the event.

Respectfully submitted:

Sue Fritz and Ann Lavanway, Co-chairs



Creamery Bridge (Route 5) over Gun Brook, North Thetford., n.d.

Weathersfield, VT

Jeff Pelton, Chair
358 Downer Hill Rd.
Springfield, VT 05156
802-885-9517
jpelton@vermontel.net

or

Heather Shand, Secretary
hshand@gmail.com

Weathersfield Conservation Commission 2017 Annual Report

The new year found the Commission busy commenting on the natural resources sections of the new Town Plan and the new Zoning By-Laws as well as the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission's planning maps. In the field, an assessment of landowner interest in riparian buffers along the North Branch of the Black River was conducted, and the groundwater mapping project was concluded. To this end the Commission hosted a public meeting in July for geologist Stephen Wright to discuss his conclusions. Also, a wildlife photo contest was held.

This fall the Commission has had representation at several recreation planning meetings: the Town Forest recreation grant, the West Windsor, Windsor, and Weathersfield tri-town recreation initiative, and the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions summit. The Commission also attended several of the Perkinsville and Ascutney villages' revitalization meetings. Two subdivision site visits were conducted.

The Commission meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Center Meetinghouse except during the winter months when meetings are at Martin Memorial Hall in Ascutney. These meetings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. Please contact us regarding our town or your property with concerns about wildlife, non-native species, and other natural resources questions. Meeting agendas and notes are published on the Town website.

Projects/Issues for the Coming Year

- 1) Assist with planning for recreation in the Town Forest.
- 2) Assist with planning for recreation with the towns of Windsor and West Windsor.
- 3) Follow up the 2016 -2017 Groundwater Mapping project by working with the Town to get groundwater protection language adopted into the Town Plan and Zoning By-Laws.
- 4) Plan for public programs and hikes to natural areas.

Town of West Fairlee
CC Chair: Peggy Willey 802-333-4155
Email: peggywilley@myTopsmail.com

WEST FAIRLEE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Conservation Commission (CC) activities this year centered on education, community events, water quality and trail development.

Partnering with Thetford CC, we presented several educational talks and activities. Tom Tynning regaled us with stories and habits of frogs, salamanders and toads. He spoke about "Big Night", when amphibians head to their native breeding pools, and are often crossing roads in waves to get here. It is fascinating to help them across: for safety's sake, it is best for children to do this with a parent. If you are interested in helping this coming spring, the CC can provide more information.

In May, George Clark gave an outstanding Bird walk at Elmwood Farm. In October, Sam Jaffe brought his Caterpillar Lab to Westshire School. 115 children, parents, and teachers attended. One caterpillar was so small, we had to see it under such magnification that you could see the individual cells of the leaf it was feeding on.

Westshire's 6th grade participated in a Pollinator Project in coordination with the Hanover Garden Club. They planted native flowers along the Rivendell Trail to support bees, birds, butterflies and other insects that gather pollen from these flowers.

Members of the CC attended a gathering of Upper Valley CC's, as well as the AVCC meeting with other commissions. Czech scientist Michal Kravcik, described how sequestration of water on the landscape can slow drainage and thus lower earth temperatures. The CC also met with Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission to learn how forest fragmentation concerns can be addressed in the Town Plan.

Marina Welch, of White River Natural Resource Conservation District met with us. She is involved with helping towns take steps to improve water quality and doing agricultural outreach. West Fairlee's reach of the Ompompanoosuc still measures high levels of E.coli, and this is a concern we discussed.

In late September we presented the natural resource projects that seem most important for the health of the Town and its natural resources to the Planning Commission for their consideration in drawing up the new town plan.

The Westshire ATV club was very helpful on Green Up day, and we wish to thank them as well as all members of the community that participated. Volunteers also joined us in pulling up wild chervil on several sections of road before these invasives go to seed.

A three-year project came to fruition this summer: the Geer family, with help from the Connecticut River Watershed Council and support of the Town, removed concrete dam impediments to the free flow of water. The fish were lined up as soon as it came out, to head upstream. Source-to-Sea volunteers collected stream trash from Geer Dam to Mill Street, and the Conservation Commission facilitated the disposal of the trash collected.

The CC designed and flagged a trail linking Brushwood North to Brushwood South, as well as a variation of the Ridge Trail in Brushwood South which avoids the wet valley. Mapping and blazing remains to be done in the coming year. We are continuing to work with Vermont Forest Parks and Recreation to extend the wetland protections of Brushwood North into Brushwood South.

In 2018 we'll be working on revision of the Forest Stewardship Plan, timber stand improvement, mapping of wildlife road crossings, corridors and habitat areas; removal of invasives; community education regarding water quality; path signage; boundary blazing; community nature walks and providing events for schools and the community at large.

West Windsor Conservation Commission

*Ted Siegler, Mark Nowlan, Laura Stillson,
Barbara Gerstner, Chris Nesbitt, Andy Harrington, Sue Greenall
Cathy Boedtker, Rudy Gross*

Annual Report 2017

The West Windsor Conservation Commission normally meets on the first Monday of the Month at 7pm. All residents and visitors are welcome to attend. Agendas are posted in advance of each meeting.

During 2017 the Conservation Commission focused primarily on completing the Community Forest Management Plan for the Town Forest. This Plan is a requirement of the Conservation Easement donated by the Town in return for financial assistance in acquiring the Ski Area. It outlines how the Town expects to manage the newly expanded Town Forest over the next ten years, consistent with the Conservation Easement, and impact all areas of the Town Forest, including the Ski Area.

The finalized Community Forest Management Plan has been forwarded to the Selectboard for review and approval before it is submitted to the Upper Valley Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

The Conservation Commission also worked on:

- Education on invasive species and river corridor activities to reduce damage from flooding.
- Implementation of Mill Brook stream improvements to reduce flooding based on the Phase 2 Geomorphic Assessment that was completed in 2015.
- Acquisition and management of trail easements.

Respectfully Submitted

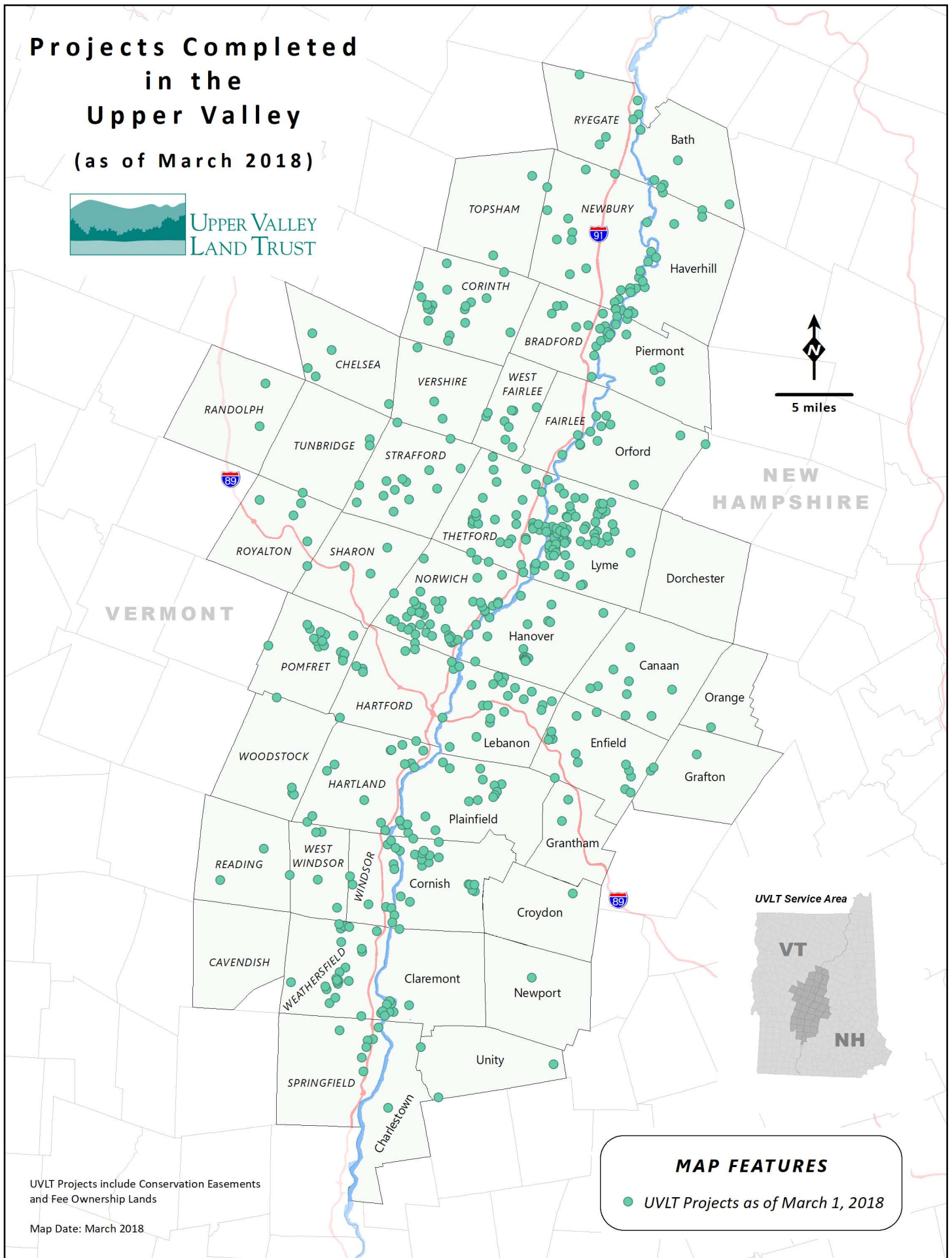
Ted Siegler, Chair

Projects Completed in the Upper Valley

(as of March 2018)



UPPER VALLEY
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UFLT Projects include Conservation Easements
and Fee Ownership Lands

Map Date: March 2018

MAP FEATURES

● UFLT Projects as of March 1, 2018



UPPER VALLEY
LAND TRUST

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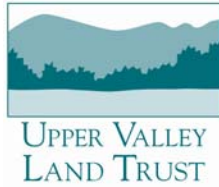
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Conservation Easements

Frequently Asked Questions

The Upper Valley Land Trust permanently protects specific parcels of land using voluntary, legally binding agreements known as conservation easements. A conservation easement is a deed that specifies the types and locations of activities permitted on a particular parcel of land. A conservation easement "runs with the land" so all future owners of the parcel are bound to the terms of the conservation easement.

UVLT works directly with landowners to draft restrictions appropriate to the unique characteristics of each property and the landowner's goals. For instance, a landowner may choose to conserve some, but not all, of their land; or a landowner may wish to specify timber or habitat management standards to continue their investment in good stewardship.

Land subject to a conservation easement remains in private ownership and can be sold, given, or inherited at any time. A conservation easement assures landowners that the natural resource values of their land will be protected forever, no matter who the future owners are.

Conservation easements are usually donated to UVLT, and easement donors may realize income tax, estate tax, and gift tax benefits. When funds are available, UVLT may purchase conservation easements. This is sometimes called "selling development rights."

Who Can Grant an Easement?

Any owner of property with conservation values may grant a conservation easement if UVLT accepts. If the property belongs to more than one person, all owners must consent. If

the property is mortgaged, the owner must obtain an agreement from the lender to partially subordinate its interest so that the easement cannot be extinguished in the event of foreclosure.

How Restrictive is a Conservation Easement?

Each conservation easement is designed to limit or prohibit development and other activities in order to protect the significant natural values of that particular property.

Agricultural and forestry activities are usually permitted and encouraged on conserved lands, and structures such as culverts, bridges, barns, sheds, fences, and dams necessary for farming and forestry are allowed. Habitat management and improvement, such as creating ponds and wetlands or establishing plant species to benefit wildlife, is also usually permitted.

Depending on the characteristics of the property and the landowner's wishes, future residential or commercial construction may be prohibited entirely — or limited to a site where it will have the least impact on the natural values of the property. Additional restrictions usually include prohibition of mining, excavation, advertising billboards, and dumps.

How Much Land Must Be Included in a Conservation Easement?

The appropriate amount of acreage depends on the purposes of the easement and the natural values of the land, the landowner's objectives, and UVLT land protection goals and priorities. The restrictions must convey meaningful conservation benefits consistent

with UVLT's mission as a charitable organization.

How are Conservation Easements Enforced?

When UVLT accepts a conservation easement, it takes on a duty of stewardship — the right and responsibility to defend the terms of the easement against any future violation. UVLT representatives visit conserved properties periodically to verify compliance, using written records and photographs to document the condition of the property.

Does a Conservation Easement Require Public Access to the Property?

A conservation easement does not allow access to the public unless the landowner specifically provides for it in the document. Public access is more often granted when the property has a history of public use and is perceived to be a recreational resource. Some landowners provide public access rights to a limited area, such as hiking along a defined corridor. Landowners may limit access to specific purposes (education or hunting, for instance) or permit only certain types of activities such as hiking or skiing. Vermont and New Hampshire state laws protect landowners who offer public access from liability.

Conservation easements do permit regular access by UVLT for the purpose of monitoring the use and activities on the property to ensure that the terms and conditions of the conservation easement are upheld.

Are There Financial Incentives to Donating a Conservation Easement?

Income Taxes: The donation of a conservation easement constitutes a charitable gift which may be deductible for federal income tax purposes if the property meets conservation standards established by the federal government. The value of the gift, determined by an appraisal, is equal to the difference between the fair market value of the property before and after the easement is donated.

Estate Taxes: A conservation easement can be a useful estate planning tool, enabling heirs to keep land they would otherwise have to sell. State and federal inheritance taxes on real estate are often so high that the heirs are forced to sell some or all of the land just to pay the taxes. Because an easement reduces the value of the property, the inheritance taxes are also reduced.

Gift Taxes: When a landowner gives land to a family member, the gift is subject to gift taxes if its value exceeds the maximum tax-free amount. Lowering the value of the land through a conservation easement may allow the landowner to give more land free of tax, or may help reduce the amount of tax owed.

Property Taxes: Most property subject to a conservation easement is eligible for preferential tax treatment under current use taxation. Landowners whose property is already enrolled in a current use program will generally not see a further reduction in their property taxes.



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