

CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS REPORT 2019



includes:

- ✓ Lists of Conservation Commission Contacts in NH & VT
- ✓ Reports of Conservation Commissions 2018 Activities
- ✓ UVLT Conserved Properties Map
- ✓ UVLT Staff Directory
- ✓ Conservation Easements – Frequently Asked Questions

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION CONTACTS - NH

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BATH CONSERVATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

The Bath Conservation Commission had an active 2018, performing the duties outlined under RSA 36-A, to study and protect the natural resources of the town.

The town of Bath continues its work on the Ammonoosuc River Stream Crossing Assessment Project (ARSCAP) which trained college interns to do assessments of all of the stream crossings (culverts and bridges) in the watershed. These assessments determined how well the crossings function and how well they allow passage for aquatic organisms, including brook trout. Now that the field work and modelling is complete, the commission worked with town representatives and partners to prioritize restoration of and to solicit grant money to repair three inadequate stream crossings on Childs Brook. The conservation commission will continue to work with the select board, highway department, and local landowners to repair the crossings, restore connectivity for aquatic organism passage and to improve the habitat for the Childs Brook watershed.

Other conservation commission accomplishments included:

- ✓ Serving on the planning board to offer technical expertise to address subdivision proposals and ordinances.
- ✓ Monitoring the town owned conservation easement.
- ✓ Continuing assistance on a proposed conservation easement to protect valuable agricultural land.

Future plans include:

- ✓ Increasing the public's awareness about the ecological and economic impact of invasive species.
- ✓ Continuing work on additional stream crossing prioritization projects
- ✓ Updating the Natural Resource section of the Master Plan

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

- ✓ We could use some advice/expertise/training on how to write grants to fund conservation projects, such as stream crossing remediation.

Submitted by: Bruce Barnum, Chair of the Bath Conservation Commission

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Other conservation commission members:

Judy Tumosa, contact information same as above
Linda Michelsen: lindajmichelsen@outlook.com
Linda Lauer: lldlauer@aol.com

REPORT OF BRADFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION (BCC)

With Selectboard approval, BCC's bylaws were amended this year to read: "The Commission shall consist of a minimum of seven and a maximum of nine members, appointed by the Select Board. Not more than three members may be non-residents of the Town of Bradford." With that approval, the BCC welcomed Shilo Gregory as its newest member.

At the end of 2017, Bradford was one of 10 Vermont towns selected to participate in the Town Forest Recreation Planning Project, funded by the National Forest Service and in collaboration with the VT Urban & Community Forest Program and UVM Extension Service. A private consultant firm, EC Group, worked with our 16-member Steering Committee which held 2 forest walks, 2 public forums and collected survey responses about our Town Forest. The culmination of this yearlong effort was a comprehensive Town Forest Recreation Plan based on the input of local participants in the process and endorsed by the Selectboard. Noted below with asterisks are some of the priorities set forth in the plan that the BCC has already begun work on.

Stewardship

- *A Bradford Trails Collaborative is being organized by Shilo Gregory. It will have a Steering Committee to establish its mission and to develop a list of potential volunteers to groom and maintain trail resources in Bradford.
- Trail grooming in the WM/DD Town Forest was assisted by Oxbow High School students in May and by members of the Green MT Club in June.
- The 2018 Race to the Top was coordinated by Rick & Caroline Evans with Monique Priestley on June 2nd. It hosted 64 kids on the 1.5 mile course and 38 adults on the 3.5 mile route. The fastest youth was Abe Musty, age 10, at 15 minutes and the fastest adult runner was Stephan Dunn, age 28, at 34 minutes, 6 seconds.
- The Wilderness Trail was re-routed this summer, thanks to the efforts of Riley Hudson, Aaron & Bentley Rivers, Shilo Gregory, Tom Gray & Andrea Franklin. The new section of the trail was then blazed and GPS'd by Angela Wendell, Susan Underwood & Nancy Jones. Upper Valley Land Trust will provide an updated Trail Map.

Management

- The BCC hired Jeremy Hatch to clear the large landing area at the intersection of the Woods Road and Commemorative way to restore it to its former state of openness
- *3 new trail head signs will be installed at Wrights MT, Devil's Den & Tillotson's Trek trailheads this year.
- *Due to safety issues, the foot bridge on the Chase Hollow Trail has been replaced by Shilo Gregory, Tom Gray and Angela Wendell.
- *In 2019 the parking areas at Wrights MT and Tillotson's Trek trail heads will be expanded to accommodate more vehicles and enable school buses to safely park and turn around. Tillotson's Trek trail head will then have all-season access. Funding for this project has been sought from the Recreation Trails Program of VT Forests, Parks & Recreation Division.

Information and Education

- The 2018 Friends of Wrights MT Scholarship was awarded to Isabella Giesing.
- First Monday environmental documentary films were shown at Colatina Exit Upstairs each month in 2018.
- Two films: *Negotiating with Nature*, presented by the filmmaker, and *The Eagle Huntress*, followed by a VINS Raptor presentation were shown at the BA Auditorium.

Beautification

- The BCC gave \$150 to the Bradford Business Assoc. for Fall plantings in the Downtown planter boxes.
- Plans have been made to replace sickly weeping crab trees at the edge of Denny Park.

Conservation

- Benefits for the Bradford Conservation Fund included the Annual Yard Sale on Memorial Day weekend, private donations, the \$5,000 allocation at 2018 Town Meeting, Colatina's Buck-A-Pie Week, and being the food vendor at The Giving Fair.

REPORT OF BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Bradford Beautification Committee is a group of volunteers who have worked for many years to make our community more attractive for residents and visitors.

This year, the committee used the annual appropriation from the Town, supplemented by donations, to maintain perennial gardens at the Bradford Academy including the area around the Veterans Memorial, in the Memorial Park near the Library, at the corner of Barton and Main streets, the stone water boxes and at the gazebo in Denny Park.

The members of the Committee this year were: Carolyn Coffin, Cynthia Bazzano, Kathy Thibault, Margaret Kidder, Diane Smarro, Diane Bennett, Harvey Dorr, Jeff Bensel, Kathy Munson, Geri Mooney, and Penny Hodge. Emeriti members are Carolyn Floryan, Vida Perry-Munson and Jeannette Nordham.

The Beautification Committee is open to volunteers who wish to help with this important civil responsibility. Gardening experience is helpful, but not necessary. Those who wish to work with the Beautification Committee may contact me at 802-222-4423.

Carolyn Coffin



The gardens in front of the Bradford Academy are beautifully maintained by members of the Beautification Committee seen above. Below is the end result – bright, colorful perennials for all to enjoy.



REPORT OF GREEN UP DAY AND TIRE EVENT ACTIVITY

Once again, Bradford's Green Up Day 2018 was quite productive! Bradford families and friends as well as Veteran's Place signed up as did the Bradford Cub Scout pack and their parents .

Townwide participation yielded 1.1 tons of mixed green bags, trash bags, and recyclables which included tires, blue board, plastic bins and buckets, glass, televisions, bedding and clothing. All of which were loaded into the rolloff parked in the Bradford Town Garage parking lot.

The Spring Tire Recycling event held in the Bradford Town Garage parking lot yielded over 260 tires, 18 of these tires with rims. This total included 92 assorted tires from River Bend Career and Technical Center's Automotive class under the direction of Robert St. Pierre.

Mr. St. Pierre also helped coordinate a community service project with the assistance of Meredith Puffer, Math Instructor along with Mr. Reimanis and the Pre-Technical students. On a cold, wet April 26, these students picked up a total 77 tires on South Road.

I thank everyone who participated in the Green Up Day cleanup and the Tire Event. Bradford looked green and clean clearly the result of our community's hard work.

I look forward to seeing you on May 4th on Green Up Day!

*Barbara Kulzyck
Green Up Day Coordinator
Bradford Conservation Commission*

Canaan Conservation Commission 2018 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 2018:

- Sponsored the 12th annual Earth Day Roadside Cleanup. We succeeded in removing over 50 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.
- 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.
- Provided financial support for the Connecticut River Conservancy's "Source to Sea" river cleanup.
- Volunteered over 200 hours to projects in the community.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Bill Chabot, Chair
Canaan Conservation Commission**

Charlestown Conservation Commission

The Charlestown Conservation Commission meets on the third Monday of each month at 7:00PM in the Community Room below the library. The public is invited to attend.

The Commission was very active this year in maintaining and promoting the towns hiking trails. The Commission is a member of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance and our trails are listed on their program entitled Upper Valley Trails Finder. By going to their website www.localmotion.org/trails/ you can find all our trails mapped out with directions on how to access, length of trails and other pertinent information along with pictures. Trail maps are also available in the Select Board office.

Annual projects the Commission were involved with included the semi-annual Adopt-a-highway clean-up along Rt. 12, and the yearly monitoring of the LCIP (Land Conservation Investment Program) easements held by the state and monitored by the Commission. Letters were sent to the owners this year requesting they start planning for the remarking of their boundaries.

The Commission also sponsors Green-up day the first Saturday in May of each year. Many thanks to the people who volunteered their time picking up trash and to the Jiffy Mart, Ralph's, Charlestown House of Pizza and the Ice Cream Machine for their donations of food and drinks to feed the volunteers.

A timber harvest was started in the Reservoir lot in January but was not able to be completed due to the early posting of the town roads. The contract for this sale has been extended and is scheduled to start again in January 2019.

An application was made to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which will pay landowners for forest improvement practices which are accomplished. Our application was not approved in 2018 due to lack of funds when we applied but we will be reapplying in 2019. This work is to be done in the Reservoir Lot in the area of the timber sale.

An ordinance was created listing the permitted and prohibited uses of the Charlestown Town Forests which awaits Select Board approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Holmes

Chairman

Claremont Conservation Commission 2018 Annual Report

Stevens Brook Conservation Easement

- Awarded contract for trail layout to Lew Shelley of SnowHawk LLC in November
- Continue to seek permanent access to easement
- Beginning stages of creating water quality monitoring program for Stevens Brook through NH DES Volunteer River Assessment (VRAP) program
- Continue annual monitoring and reporting
- Removed invasives from Area 2 of the easement
- Reached out to NHACC for guidance on obtaining conservation easements with eye toward expanding Stevens Brook easement

Unnamed Conservation Easement

- Discovered unnamed easement at bottom of closed landfill; walked the easement to assess condition
- Walked boundaries to determine monumentation; located some of the corner pins; ordered boundary markers from sign-maker to mark the boundaries

Educational Activities

- Sponsored three children for Barry Conservation Camp
- Helped fund day trip to Sargent Center (Nature's Classroom) in Hancock NH for 8th grade class
- Commission launches own Facebook page – page is used primarily for educational purposes

Environmental Activities

- Met with Kelly Stettner of Black River Action Team (BRAT) about creating a similar program for the Sugar River
- Reviewed multiple Wetlands Permit applications
- Participated in Earth Day clean-up activities at the Ashley Ferry Boat Landing
- Participated in Source-to-Sea clean-up along Sugar River with Eversource volunteers, local volunteers and students on Day 1; Day 2 was at Ashley Landing and Jarvis Hill sites

- Established pollinator garden in island at intersection of Chestnut and Broad Streets
- Filed complaint with DES regarding repeated mowing in the wet meadow at 155-157 Charlestown Road
- Learned about Emerald Ash Borer and threat to ash trees in Claremont; inventoried ash trees in city center
- Attended “Trash Talk” at Harpoon Brewery; networking with local river stewards

Supportive Activities

- Provided support for Wild Goose Boat Launch
- Letter of support for Granite State Rural Water grant application to address source water protection for Whitewater Reservoir; reached out to Cornish Conservation Commission for letter of support

Other

- Relinquished oversight of the Rail Trail
- Set list of goals for 2018
- Updated Conservation Plan

Current Funds

- \$9,997.20 (Operating Funds)
- \$52,201.34 (Trust Funds)

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

In 2018, thanks to the many community members who pitched in, and in particular to Melissa Eaton and Ken Arkind, who organized and supervised the event, the Conservation Commission had a stellar Green-Up Day. This year, for the first time, we held a competition for number of bags of trash picked up. The prize was a plaque with that team's name placed on the kiosk in the Town Forest. This year's winners were a Taplin Hill team organized by Tania Aebi and Carl Demrow, who represented their team at the awards ceremony and stayed to help with trail maintenance.

Much of our focus in 2018 was on public education regarding composting and recycling. Shannon Choquette, of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District, held a compost demonstration at the Transfer Station and gave a talk at the Town Hall. We will continue to host events of this type in the coming years as Vermont law regarding waste management changes.

Our little orchard continues to prosper, with sixteen apple trees of different varieties, as well as four pear trees. We could not have managed any of it without the help of many community members, too many to name. However, special thanks go to the mowers who have generously donated their time – Hal Drury, Dan Wing, and Jeff Flye – and to Ginny Barlow and Bob Sandberg, who made generous donations of mulch and compost.

The Commission also continued to sponsor and organize a few favorite activities, including the popular winter tracking walk, led by Brad Salon, of the Roots School. If you have not gone on one of these, we highly recommend it! We hope also to hold a full-moon snowshoe expedition up the Roaring Ridge Trail in the new year.

As always, the work of the Conservation Commission is made possible by town support and the collection of recycled bottles at the town transfer station. Thank you to everyone who brings their returnable bottles to our drop-off site, and thanks, too, to the Commission members and volunteers who haul the bottles to Bradford to be redeemed each week.

We extend our appreciation, as well, to the volunteers who have kept the Cookeville Mall open and organized on Saturday mornings in the Post Office building. The mall is closed at present, but we hope to open a new facility in 2019 at the proposed new transfer station site, where you will be able to drop off or swap useful items you no longer need for others to put to good use.

In closing, we have added two new members to the Commission this year, and have taken on oversight of the Shea Town Forest. We continue to maintain and improve the Clement Loop Trail located off Maplewood Road. Maps of this and other trails can be found on the town website.

The Conservation Commission meets the first Monday of each month and welcomes input from all community members as we work to maintain the health of Corinth's natural environment.

Respectfully submitted,
Marian Cawley

**CORNISH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2018**

Linda Fuerst and Molly Young received the 2018 Annual Cornish Conservation Award at last year's School District meeting for their 17 years of coordinating the Four Winds Nature Program in our school. Linda was also recognized for her many years of service on the Conservation Commission and her years as Chair of the CREA Committee. The Commission welcomes recommendations for the Annual Cornish Conservation Award, please feel free to reach out to any of the Commission members with your suggestions.

The Education Committee held a number of events in 2018 including: an organic gardening workshop led by Seth Wilner of the UNH Cooperative Extension; a winter wildlife tracking walk through the CREA property led by Joe LaRue; and most favored, a talk on coyotes by Chris Schadler where over 50 people attended. Upcoming events include a mushroom growing workshop and a bird walk through CREA.

The Monitoring Committee, chaired by Rickey Poor, scheduled and completed monitoring walks on six conserved properties of which the Town of Cornish is primary easement holder. No violations of easement terms were found. The committee welcomes the landowners to join on the monitoring walks. With the help of GPS specialist, Andrew Thompson, the committee was able to mark more property boundaries with improved accuracy.

The Commission reviewed the Natural Resources Inventory to plan for the release of the next version. A preliminary review of the Planning Board Survey was conducted in order to inform educational events and future planning of the Commission. The Commission once again showed its support for the Four Winds Nature Program by purchasing the volunteer program books.

If you are interested in joining the Commission or want to learn more about conserving your land, feel free to reach out to the Commission for more information.

Regular Members

Corey Fitch, Chairperson
Jim Barker, Vice Chairperson/Treasurer
Stuart Wilkie, Secretary
Rickey Poor
Bill Gallagher
Reyer Jaarsma

Alternate Members

John Berry
Deanna Fitch
Kimberly Patterson
Bob Taylor

John Hammond,
Selectboard Representative



Conservation Commission

~ MISSION STATEMENT ~

To protect the National Resources of Enfield and preserve them for future generations.

The Conservation Commission was dealt a major blow by Mother Nature in March. The Commission put a lot of time, effort, and money for publicity towards a public talk on Road Salt: Safety and Impact on Watersheds, with Ted Diers from the NH Watershed Management Bureau as speaker. Unfortunately, a major Nor'easter hit all of New Hampshire the evening of the event, and the event had to be canceled.

Commission member, Jay Welenc, is taking the lead on creating a Wildlife Plan for Enfield with the advice of Amanda Stone, a UNH wildlife specialist. The goal of the Wildlife Action Plan is to raise awareness about locations of critical wildlife habitats, to track species of greatest concern, and to inform town residents about what they can do to improve wildlife habitat and preserve travel corridors. Ms. Stone has provided two beautiful maps that show the location of Enfield's critical wildlife habitats. The Commission has taken the maps to Town Meetings and Farmer's Markets. One map is on display at the Town Offices.

Chairman Strickland asked the Selectboard at its August 6th meeting, to determine the ownership of Lot#113, an island in the Mascoma River. The island is prime wildlife habitat, and is a natural resource within the Town boundaries.

The Commission is working on establishing a wildlife viewing area at the far end of the Town Offices' parking lot. The Commission has removed some invasive species around the viewing area. This spring, the Commission would like to continue removing more invasive shrubs, and then put up some benches and picnic tables so that town residents can enjoy the view of the Mascoma River and its wildlife species.



Pictures of the island in the Mascoma River
from the proposed wildlife viewing area

Jim Frohn, the Grafton County forester, and Jim Taylor from the Department of Public Works, met with the Commission at the Harris Brook Scenic Area and reservoir, Lot# 9-A & B. Mr. Frohn discussed management possibilities for the lot.

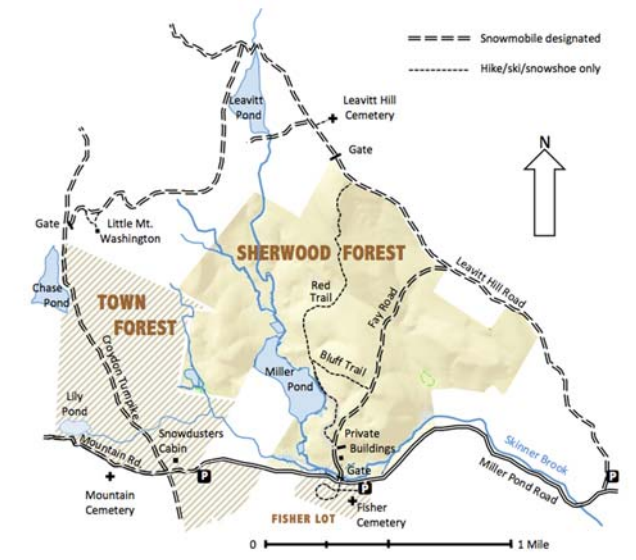
The Commission sponsored an Old Home Days Hike to Smith Pond where participants swam and had a small picnic.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Strickland, Chairman

2018 Grantham Conservation Commission Report

This year the GCC initiated a multi-year effort to improve the recreational value of the 2,500 acres of contiguous open space in Grantham's northeastern corner. Our goal is to create an integrated set of trails with on-line maps and on site signage as well as improved parking at trail heads. Much of the effort in 2018 concentrated on the 29-acre Fisher lot (aka Smith lot) at the upper end of Miller Pond Road. During the winter of 2018, four acres of mature white pine forest were clear-cut yielding a return of almost four thousand dollars, uncovering the historic Fisher Cemetery and creating a parking area to serve both the Fisher Lot and Sherwood Forest. A portion of that clear-cut was then stumped to allow the planting of a meadow and a small orchard of American chestnuts and apples. To date, parts of the planned meadow have been planted in grasses and wildflowers; in the spring Dutch white clover and some of the apples and chestnuts will be planted. This winter we hope to initiate a selective logging of the remainder of the lot creating a logging road that will become a new loop trail and connector to the 850-acre Sherwood Forest on the north side of Miller Pond Road.



Our efforts to improve the utilization of the Town's other open space assets are still evolving. Following up on the Forest Management Plan for the Town Forest described in our 2018 annual report, Jeremy Turner, the forester for the GCC, is working to initiate the logging plan which will not only add much needed funds to the GCC budget but also improve the Mountain Road and Croydon Turnpike and expand the parking at the end of Miller Pond Road. Independently, the GCC has been working with the new owner of the Sherwood Forest to identify how best to facilitate the public's ability to enjoy the property.

In addition to these more general projects, several of the commissioners spearheaded special efforts. John Larrabee led the Youth Conservation Corps of Eastman in the construction and installation of a Little Free Library and a picnic bench designed to accommodate a wheelchair for Brookside Park as well as a kiosk for the Fisher Lot. Meanwhile, in recognition of Grantham's 250th, Rich Kaszeta developed a scavenger hunt of Grantham's special places complete with commemorative pins for those who complete the hunt. Even though our anniversary year is over, the hunt, which is both fun and educational, is still available on the GCC section of the Grantham website and pins are still available for all who complete the challenge. Finally, Laura Nagy together with Andy Degan of Ausbon-Sargent led a dragonfly hunt that drew 35 participants. Our special thanks to Eryn Bagley and Willie Newhall, who generously gave everyone access to their pond, parking and bathrooms, to the Master Gardeners of the Grantham Garden Club who installed a lovely pollinator garden and kiosk in Brookside Park, and to Craig McArt for the attached map.

Other routine activities of the Commission this year included the review of numerous cutting and "dredge and fill" applications, the land stewardship monitoring of the Sherwood Forest, and participation in Old Home Day.

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Note: Following the submission of the above annual report, the possibility appeared to purchase a 355 acre parcel in collaboration with Ausbon-Sargent. If that purchase comes to pass, the commission will begin to work to improve the access of the public to the property for recreation.

UPPER VALLEY LAND TRUST CONSERVATION COMMISSION GATHERING 2018-19

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

List your Commission's activities during 2018

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 town properties or to locations requiring wetlands or Town Ordinance 4 permitting
- Commented on eight wetlands applications to Hanover ZBA and/or NH DES

Land conservation

- Monitored 24 conservation easements, and followed up as needed
- Accepted a new conservation easement required for NH DES wetland mitigation
- Provided financial support to the UVLT for their purchase of 201 acres on the east side of Moose Mt.

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
- Participated in the recreation management and improvement of trails at the Trescott Company lands including working with consultant to develop trail master plan for Trescott Company lands
- 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, drainage improvements on Old Spencer Road, Mason Trail re-route, trail and bridge improvements at Indian Ridge and bog bridge improvements on Old Highway 38
- Installed gates to protect Class VI Wardrobe Road
- Developed on line trail monitoring form
- Started work on Appalachian Trail community day hike map
- Held management planning meetings for Hayes Farm Park
- Continued work on Town Forest management plan including site visit
- Began work on update of Open Space Priorities Plan
- Hired professional to clear invasive Yellow iris from Mink Brook
- Allowed Phragmites harvesting from Town land along Mink Brook for use as thatch
- Supported management of deer herd at Balch Hill and Trescott Lands with Hanover Conservancy and Dartmouth College
- Began work on neighborhood focused knotweed management effort in the Girl Brook watershed

-Held two neighborhood meetings to collect public input on changing Class VI road status to public trail

Education/outreach

- Established Trillium monitoring stations to gauge levels of deer browse
- Garlic Mustard control initiative- neighborhood organizing, displays in town libraries and town offices, continued work with landowners and website
- Designed and produced pollinator garden signs to be displayed in new pollinator gardens created by the Upper Valley Pollinator Partnership
- Implemented a deer management assistance program issuing permits to 100 hunters to hunt on deer management lands held by large landowners near downtown Hanover
- Two volunteers received chain saw training
- Caps and t-shirts were created with the town logo and given to trail volunteers
- Re-printed brochure for King Bird Sanctuary at Hayes Farm Park

Briefly describe the projects/issues your Commission plans to tackle in 2019

- New edition of town trail map
- Addition of trails to UVTA Trail Finder app
- Develop Town GIS layers for trails, trail structures and trail signs
- Begin a trail structure inspection program
- Implement an adopt a trail program for on-going monitoring and stewardship
- Augment the 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
- Improve Tunis Road for logging and pedestrian access
- Explore possibilities for land protection on the East side of Moose Mountain
- Establish consistent trail signs and install them throughout the town trail network and at each end of our Class VI roads
- Complete management plans for Town Forest, Hayes Farm Park and South Esker Natural Area
- Mobilize management committees for these properties
- Complete update of Open Space Priorities Plan
- Complete and distribute a barberry book mark similar to our garlic mustard bookmark
- Continue invasive plant control on a watershed basis
- Develop strategy to complete protection of farmland in Etna Village

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

Neighborhood invasive management initiatives

Open space planning

Completing a set of invasive plant bookmarks- knotweed and garlic mustard are already done

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.

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 manages the 423-acre Hartford Town Forest (HTF), the 21 acre Maanawaka Conservation Area and the 6.5 acre 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.

Members of the HCC included Jon Bouton (chair), Mary Hutchins, Dana Hazen, Tom Kahl, Angela Emerson and Lee Michaelides. The HCC would like to thank former members Shawn Kelley and Cassidy Neal for their service.

Projects in the Town Forest

- Received a grant from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to undertake a planning process on Town Forest Recreation. Hartford was selected as one of ten Vermont towns to participate in this pilot project. A Town Steering Committee was formed and several meetings were held. In addition, there was an on-line survey and two community meetings to solicit community input and a presentation of the Draft Recreation Plan was made to the Selectboard. Consultants SE Group and Arrowwood Environmental participated in the project.
- The Conservation Commission received a grant from the Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions and hired the Upper Valley Trails Alliance to conduct a trails assessment of the trails in the HTF. The assessment will be used to guide the review the trails to ensure future sustainability.
- Organized the annual Trails Day to maintain trails in the HTF.
- Thanks to the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps for improving drainage on the eroding sections of the town road right of way through the HTF. The crew also built two small bridges across wet sections of trails.
- Installed new trail signs.

Outreach and Education

- Led a snow shoe outing/educational walk in the Town Forest.
- Led a vernal pool educational walk in the Town Forest.
- Led an invasive plant walk.
- Had an information booth for the Hartford Block Party.
- Assisted in the update of the Natural Resources Chapter of the Town Plan.

Other Ongoing Projects within the HCC

- Green-Up Day Town Sponsor. 493 volunteers collected 3.9 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

- Ottauquechee River and White River water quality sampling.
- Participated in the Regional Planning Commission Clean Water Advisory Committee.
- Participated in review of a proposed Riverwalk trail in White River Junction.
- Working on various projects with other town boards including the Planning Commission, Town Plan Steering Committee, Tree Board, Community Resilience Organization and Energy Commission.

The Conservation Commission meets on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. If you have any questions about the Conservation Commission, please contact Hartford Planner Matt Osborn (295-3075) or mosborn@hartford-vt.org

HARTLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, 2018

The Hartland Conservation Commission (HCC) works to protect and preserve Hartland's natural and cultural resources. Our efforts are focused in three areas: Public and Protected Lands and Watersheds, Education and Outreach, and Public Policy, as described below.

The Commission meets on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 7 pm in Damon Hall. We invite anyone who is interested to attend.

Public and Protected Lands and Watersheds

- Produced the "Guide to Hartland Public Parks and Natural Areas". It highlights nine areas in town and is available on line and in a printed version.
- Expanded water testing along Lull's Brook and the Connecticut River to 7 sites and 5 dates during the summer.
- Notified residents via the Town web site and the list serve when E. coli levels exceeded the State determined safe level of contamination.
- Contributed \$9,000 from the Conservation Trust Fund toward the completion of an easement on 35 acres of the Howe Farm.
- Worked with Hartland Elementary School to obtain a grant for the survey for a handicap accessible trail into the 17-Acre Wood. Contacted Timber and Stone to get on their schedule to develop this plan.
- Participated in the Connecticut River Source-to-Sea clean-up in September.

Education and Outreach

- Hosted a Community Breakfast to introduce our Guide to Public Parks and to increase awareness of the imminent arrival of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).
- Sponsored a Conservation Commission booth at Old Home Day to increase knowledge of the potential damage associated with EAB and suggest preventative measures.
- Co-sponsored Green-Up Day. Returning over 1,000 deposit fee containers and putting the funds into the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF).
- Received a donation from the UU Church into the CTF.
- Presented the annual Hartland Conservation Award at Town Meeting to Andrea and Theo Ambros and Gary Trachier for their efforts toward developing and maintaining Winter Trails.

- Obtained a grant to inform stream abutters of their rights and responsibilities to maintain safe water, and a grant to plant vegetation along Lull's Brook near the fire station. (Continued on next page...)

Public Policy

- Joined the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions.
- Assisted with the relocation of a legal trail between Best Rd. in Hartland and Kings Highway in West Windsor.
- Began inventorying ash trees along roads in Hartland to understand the potential impact of Emerald Ash Borer.

Commission members (term ending): Chair Rob Anderegg (2022), Chris Collier (2022), Guy Crosby (2019), John Dumas (2020), Dean Greenberg (2020), Knox Johnson (2022), Cordie Merritt (2020), Zach Ralph (2019), and Jennifer Waite (2019).



Guy Crosby inspects an ash tree as part of the Conservation Commission's effort to develop a Town response plan to the emerald ash borer.

LYME CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Trails and Land Management

Two major trail projects were undertaken in 2018. First, the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA) High School Trails Corps, with funding support from the Lyme Foundation and the Conservation Fund, replaced the entire boardwalk system in the Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary. Second, the UVTA Trails Corps rerouted a stretch of the Big Rock Preserve hiking trail. The move was necessitated by the continued erosion of an adjacent riverbank that had been badly damaged by the July 1, 2017 rain storm.

Project and Application Review

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

Outreach and Education

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” in May and “Trails Day” in June. In September the Commission hosted a workshop on Japanese knotweed control and eradication.

Our principal area of field activity will be invasive plant species control and eradication. As in past years, money from the Conservation fund will be used to help pay for the ongoing Eurasian Milfoil control program at Post Pond. An additional endeavor aimed at Japanese knotweed control will be directed by a newly formed committee; the Lyme Biodiversity Group. This effort has obtained funding from the Lyme Foundation with matching fund support from the Conservation Commission. The money will help pay for supplies and a stipend to support a field manager. In other activity, the Upper Valley Trails Alliance "High School Trails Corps" will undertake a complete rehab of the Lower Grant Brook Trail from its trail head at the Lyme School down to the Lyme Hill Conservation Area access at the ski mobile bridge.

Commission 2018 Membership

Blake Allison (Chair), Russell Hirschler (Vice Chair), Matt Stevens (Secretary) Other voting members included Tom Colgan, Margaret Sheehan and Sue MacKenzie (Select Board Rep.). Alternates Lee Larson, James Munroe and Ian Smith.

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

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

NEWBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

www.NewburyConservation.org

Visit Us on Facebook

MISSION STATEMENT: To increase public awareness of natural resources in Newbury through educational campaigns and gathering resource data in order to provide residents with the information they need to make informed decisions.

Volunteers Wanted! NCC wants to add to our volunteer list. If you would like to help out with events, trail work, fund-raising projects, tree planting, etc., **let us know who you are!** If you are looking for projects for your church group, 4-H, Boys & Girl Scouts, service group, or school related community service, NCC can help you with project ideas that will benefit both your group and our community. ***NCC meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Baldwin Library in Wells River at 7:00pm.*** All Newbury residents are invited to attend, share, and learn.

PROJECT REPORTS FROM 2018 and EVENTS FOR 2019:

Tucker Mountain Town Forest:

The transfer of the 636 acre forestland that includes Tucker Mountain and southern half of Woodchuck Mountain was transferred to the Town in December. We are excited about taking part in the development of this new Town Forest.

The top of Tucker Mountain was cleared for pastures in 1810 and has remained open since then, with views in all directions. The grassy meadows on Tucker Mountain are abundant with wildflowers and offer excellent habitat for nesting birds. The land includes a wetland of beaver ponds along the West Branch of Halls Brook and a large vernal pool. Hunters, hikers, cross-country skiers, snowmobiles, mountain bikers, horseback riders, and ATV riders all use the mountain for recreation. School groups from Newbury and Bradford make yearly treks to the top and have celebrated International Day of Peace there.

The NCC is prepared to work closely with the management committee in developing a management plan. We are also eager to recruit volunteers and begin work on projects that will protect the land and promote recreational and educational use such as erosion control, signage, planning and laying out trails, and forest management.

Erosion on the top of Tucker is of serious concern. Heavy vehicle use has caused old roads to wash out, creating gullies that grow deeper and wider with more exposure to rainstorms. Drivers then create new trails over the meadows and these, too, begin to wash out. We encourage everyone to be mindful of the damage and to avoid driving to the top, or at least to stay on established roads. Erosion like this is difficult and prohibitively expensive to repair. Now that the town owns the mountain, it's our duty and privilege to care for it.

Paddle the Border: This event starts with a canoe and kayak paddle on the Connecticut River held semi-annually in both May and October. Event sponsors include Newbury Conservation Commission, Bradford Conservation Commission, Haverhill Recreation Commission, and Lower Cohase Chamber of Commerce with support from Upper Valley Land Trust and Upper Valley

Trails Alliance. The Paddle is followed by a cookout provided by the Wells River/Woodsville Rotary Club, live music by Strawberry Farm Band, and displays set up by Community groups to promote historical, cultural, educational, and environmental information about the Connecticut River Valley. **Join us in 2019 to celebrate the event's 16th year!**

- The May paddle begins from the Woodsville Community Field and goes to Bedell Bridge State Park (Sunday, May 19th).
- The October Paddle goes from the Newbury/Haverhill Crossing boat launch to Bugbee Landing in Bradford (Sunday, October 6th).

Trails Day Work Day: National Trails Day is held every year on the first Saturday in June. **2019 will be the 22nd year of this important day.** Volunteers can participate locally by joining NCC and Cross Vermont Trail Association (CVTA) in a workday involving the upkeep of local hiking trails. This year we will be working on the Wells River Nature Trails and the Cross Vermont Trail behind Blue Mt. School. We meet at Blue Mt. School on **Saturday, June 1st.**

Trail Maintenance is a year round effort. The most effective way to maintain the trail system is by using volunteers. What a great way to enjoy the outdoors and assist others at the same time. If you are not familiar with the hiking trails in Newbury and/or would like to volunteer your time, please contact any NCC member and we will gladly show you the trails.

Birding With Bill: This May event is held with Bill Shepard, Executive Director of the Connecticut River Birding Trails, and local host Alice Allen. The group explores the Wells River Nature Trails, successfully calling and identifying a large variety of birds. This is a very popular event and group size is limited. For more information on "Birding with Bill" call Alice Allen at 802-584-4077 or visit our web site.

Cross Vermont Trail Fall Foliage Bicycle Ride: This year's annual ride on the Cross Vermont Trail is also in its **22nd year.** The ride starts from Kettle Pond in Groton State Park and goes to Blue Mt. School. We had a great turnout in 2018 and saw a lot of new riders, both local and from out of the area. The CVT Fall Foliage ride is held every year on the last Saturday of September. **(Saturday, September 28).**

Cross Vermont Trail Association News

Imagine a multi-use, four-season, off-road trail across the width of Vermont following the Winooski River & Wells River Valleys - a 90 mile greenway for cyclists, skiers, and walkers which would connect communities, their schools, and the natural areas between. This vision has steadily moved toward reality through the quiet work of the Cross Vermont Trail Association.

CVTA 2018 Achievements:

East Montpelier: Gained permanent trail easement building up to our Big Bridge Project, and built a temporary bridge where the railbed was washed out east of rte. 14.

Richmond: Help local volunteers rebuild the Johnnie Brook trail.

Williston: Helped get a Bike Path connection to be included in the design for the new highway crossing over Muddy Brook.

Marshfield: Working with landowners on the CVT and helping improve the trail where the railbed crosses the Martin Covered Bridge Park.

Groton: CVT worked with AmeriCorps volunteers on the Telephone Line Trail a side trail off the CVT. Congratulation to the Town of Groton for taking steps to protect the multi-use nature of five miles of town-owned railbed, and reaffirming CVTA's partnership with the town to help keep the railbed open as a trail into the future.

Newbury and Blue Mt. Union School: Began reconstruction of the trail/railbed near Blue Mt. School last fall. CVTA signed a new license agreement with the school and are planning on more trail improvements in 2019.

The Cross Vermont Trail Association, formed in 1999, is an incorporated, private non-profit organization that is member-based and volunteer-driven. We are funded by winning competitive grants and through individual donations from trail users. Residents of all towns through which the trail route passes are invited to get involved in the CVTA. Get better trails near where you live. Maps, guidebook, and more information on the trail routes are available at www.crossvermont.org, or call us at 802-498-0079.

Greg Western, Trail Programs Coordinator ~ Michael Thomas, Regional Coordinator

NCC GOALS FOR 2019

- 1. NCC will continue our public outreach by working with local educators at Newbury Elementary School and Blue Mt. Union. NCC will continue hosting educational workshops to increase community interest and involvement in local conservation efforts.**
- 2. NCC will work towards establishing a Town Forest & Conservation Fund. This fund could be used as a match for grants; for improvements for our trail networks; to help protect and preserve wildlife habitat and wetlands, working farm land, and historical sites; educational programs for our community and schools; and to support NCC members attending workshops etc.**
- 3. NCC will work toward improving our town forests by reviewing the forests management plans, and developing a town forest policy that balances conservation, recreation, public access, education, and good forestry stewardship.**
- 4. NCC will join Upper Valley Trails Alliance. This will help NCC promote the trails we work on and our events like Paddle the Boarder and Trails Day Work Day. This will also give NCC more opportunity to network with other Conservation Commissions and like minded groups and help NCC expand our volunteer networks.**
- 5. NCC will continue improving our Web-Site. By working with social media [Web-Site and Face Book] NCC will be able to reach out to residents and visitors to promote events, share pictures, stories, and adventures in Newbury. This is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved!**

Our website, www.NewburyConservation.org, contains much information including upcoming events. Please check it often and follow our Facebook page for notes of interest.

For more information about Newbury Conservation Commission and our events contact Michael Thomas 802-757-3960 or mikethom1@charter.net

Submitted by: Ami Norton, Carol Stoll, Dianne Norton, Chelsea Lynes, Michael Thomas

Norwich

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission endeavors to inventory, monitor, and conserve the natural heritage assets in Town. These assets include wildlife, wetlands, waterways, natural plant communities, and scenic resources. We share our findings with fellow citizens, Town commissions and governing bodies. The following projects were undertaken for the benefit of all Town residents. We:

- Supported environmental education at the elementary school.
- Worked with the Connecticut River Watershed Council on Charles Brown Brook dam removal.
- Contributed to the production of invasive plant species bookmarks.
- Published articles in the Norwich Times about Open Space, the Milton Frye Nature Area, and Emerald Ash Borer.
- Developed a new forest management plan for the Milton Frye Nature Area.
- Revived the public Post Office Display.
- Conducted annual Melendy Parcel review for the conservation easement.
- Performed forest ecology outreach activities with the Marion Cross School.
- Led a bird walk and banding demonstration.
- Discussed important issues for the Town's benefit.

NorwichConservationCommission@gmail.com

ORFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2018 Annual Report

The Orford Conservation Commission (OCC) has again this year actively worked on various conservation-related projects throughout Orford. Our objective continues to be to promote and continue dedicated stewardship of the remarkable natural resources in Orford.

The projects undertaken by the OCC in 2018 included:

- Mountain View Farm Conservation Area (formerly Mason Pond Project): The OCC worked with the NH Barn Committee and the Architecture Faculty at Keene State University to devise plans to stabilize and maintain the historic barn and shed once owned by Billy Brown.
- Orford Conservation Land: Continued maintenance of hiking trail to the Connecticut River and monitored tree planting of riparian buffer. Teacher and OCC Commissioner, Jeff MacQueen, conducted summer program classes.
- Easement Reviews: Conducted annual reviews of conserved land in Orford.
- Conservation Easements: Discussed conservation easement projects, including Brackett Brook Farm, with the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT). Held a public hearing on donating \$10,000 from the Conservation Fund to help the UVLT purchase the easement (in progress).
- Updating Orford's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI): Work on the NRI continued. In addition to updating facts and figures, several stories were collected from residents regarding farming, logging, invasive species, climate change, oral history, etc.
- Jacobs Brook flooding/erosion mitigation and restoration of life: Worked with NH DES, Connecticut River Conservancy, and wetlands engineer Jim Kennedy to obtain a permit for work along NH Route 25A in Orfordville. Worked with CRC to apply for grant to pay for work.
- Culverts Study: Met with Meghan Butts of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. Began discussions to conduct culvert study along town roads.
- Other activities: Presented a conservation slide show at Town Meeting; reviewed wetland permit applications; reviewed NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) letters to landowners warning of wetlands violations or failing septic systems; and discussed possible sites for Connecticut River Conservancy cleanup efforts.
- Water Testing: Conducted water testing from May through September at seven sites along Jacobs Brook. (The State of NH tests at Indian Pond beach/boat launch). Testing sites were added, and more frequent testing will continue for 2019. New water testers will be trained.

Edmond Cooley (Chair), orford.conservation@gmail.com, Jeff MacQueen (Vice-Chair), Tom Bubolz, John Miller, Harry Pease, Craig Putnam, and Carl Schmidt; Alternates: Emily Bryant, Fran Plaisted (Secretary), Carl Cassel, Diane Gildersleeve, and Paul Goundrey; Select Board *Liaison*: David Smith.

Starting Balance:	\$143,253.17
Interest:	\$345.86
Expenses:	\$200.00
Bank Fees:	\$0.76
Subtotal:	\$143,398.27
Committed:	\$10,000.00
Current Balance:	\$133,398.27

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION
DECEMBER 2018**

The Plainfield Conservation Commission (PCC) is an advisory commission to the Plainfield Select Board. It was a lean year for your commission. We did manage to address our responsibilities to our publicly conserved properties, e.g. Mud Pond. We also offered some walks that featured Plainfield's old roads and to see and explore some established pollinator gardens.

Pollinator Gardens

Many towns in the Upper Valley and New England are concentrating on keeping our pollinators (e.g., bees, butterflies, bats, birds, etc.) alive and flourishing. We need these natural pollinators to have a place to feed on the flowers, bugs and water you see every day. We use our lawnmowers and tractors to manicure the natural landscape and feed our livestock. Knowing how to create and nurture a pollinator garden somewhere on your property has become an urgent activity recently.

Conservation Commissions in many American towns have requested that we all work together to provide small or large areas of ground where the pollinators can easily find food and water. The garden may be as simple as to stop mowing a portion of your property and let that area go back to its natural state—even stopping fertilizing that soil! That means lessening that list of chores you have. Even a rotting log with its grubs and ants is food and shelter for some pollinators.

Without our pollinators, our own food supply will dwindle. The pollinators fertilize the sweet-smelling apple blossom so it becomes that juicy apple in late summer and early fall.

Plainfield's Conservation Commission protects and respects the town's beautiful landscape. We wish to continue our service to you and our shared land.

Respectfully Submitted, Myra Ferguson, Chair
pcc@plainfieldnh.org

CONSERVATION COMMISSION FUNDS YEAR END BALANCES

Forestry Maintenance Fund	01/01/18 Beg. Balance	\$19,069
Interest earned		\$353
Balance	12/31/18	\$19,423
Conservation Fund	01/01/17 Beg. Balance	\$74,744
Current use penalties		\$12,290
Interest earned		\$1,577
Balance	12/31/18	\$88,611

RANDOLPH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The mission of the Randolph Conservation Commission is to preserve the town's natural resources and rural character by encouraging sound environmental stewardship, providing community outreach and education, and advocating for sustainable town planning.

The Commission (RCC) began the year by thoughtfully reviewing its mission to clearly define its purpose, developing new by-laws to guide its operation, and finalizing a comprehensive strategic plan in order to prioritize its goals and activities within a timeline to accomplish them. The ultimate reason for these efforts was to help the RCC act in a more proactive manner with specific markers to judge progress. These documents may be found on the RCC webpage: <https://randolphvt.org/rcc>

One of the key goals in the plan was to focus on partnerships with other entities to maximize efforts and resources toward achieving common goals and minimize overlap due to lack of communication. Perhaps the best example of this has been working with the Recreation Committee and the Rochester/Randolph Sports Trail Association (RASTA) in order to develop and maintain a network of trails on the Ellis Property and to begin work on trails in the Seyward Town Forest. Commissioner Brendan Barden has been the lead individual on these efforts. A map of the Ellis Property trails can be found on the webpage

In December the Commission led a winter bird walk on the Ellis property in conjunction with the Christmas Bird Count weekend. We didn't see too many birds, but Brian Lowe told us about the winter bird ecosystem and we did see a huge flock of pine grosbeaks and starlings (and one sharp-shinned hawk) once we got back to the parking area.

For 2019, RCC plans to continue outreach efforts and opportunities for community involvement. These will include educational programming, the placement of a student member on the board and opportunities for residents to give input as to how they would like to see the town properties managed.

RCC meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month at 6 PM at the town hall except for Election Day and Town Meeting day.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Van Dyke, *Chair*

Royalton Conservation Commission 2018

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 Select Board, the White River Partnership, the Vermont Law School, and the Windsor

County Forester to consider potential uses for several town-owned tracts of land, including the so called, Crawford parcel (behind the Town Offices), The Sarnoff parcel (north of Rt 107), and the White River access sites. A forest management plan has been completed, and trail work started on the Sarnoff parcel. A forest management plan is in progress for the Crawford parcel. We anticipate hosting several volunteer work days for trail work and invasive plant control at both parcels in the upcoming months. In the past year, we have also hosted and attended several educational and informational seminars, as well as providing information and advice at local events. 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. Everyone is encouraged to participate in cleaning up their neighborhoods and towns. Look for details as the date approaches and mark your calendars; Green Up Day is May 4, 2019.

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

Sharon Conservation Commission Town Report for 2018

Every year for the past 48 years, the Sharon Conservation Commission planned and hosted the Green-Up Day community celebration on the first Saturday in May. (see Green-Up Report). This annual event has become a remarkable community celebration. Don't miss Green Up day on May 4, 2019.

In 2018 the conservation commission also:

- Maintained two town owned White River Accesses - the Sharon Town River Access site north of town on Rt. 14 and the Broad Brook River Access on back river road.
- Worked with the White River Partnership to establish a third town access site (Sharon Ledges River Access) on RT 14 near the Hartford line on the property where the Green Trailer Park had been before Hurricane Irene. We received a small grant to develop this third site.
- Maintained various plantings on the Elementary School property. Three maple trees were planted in front of the school to replace three trees which had to be removed in 2017.
- Maintained the Rikert Veteran's Memorial site trail,
- Monitored existing conservation easements in town.
- Maintained the elm trees planted along Route 14 in the center of town.
- Continued to look for opportunities to protect the large blocks of forest habitat and river corridor projects in Sharon.

We also have begun working with the Town of Strafford in response to an opportunity to establish the Ashley Community Forest. This forest block has been purchased by the Alliance for Vermont Communities (AVC) with the hope that our two towns could create a resource in the two towns for a multi-use community forest. We have been working with the planning commission and the selectboard to develop a management plan for the property.

The White River Ledges property is now established along the south bank of the White River on the eastern edge of town with public access for recreational use

We maintain the existing ski and walking trails in the Downer Forest in both the main block and the annex block. We do have approval to develop one additional trail in the annex block and expect to flag it and get approval of the specific route in 2019. Our hope is that these trails are used!

There is a map of the trails available on line and at the town offices.

We look forward to another successful Green Up Day in 2019 and welcome all who wish to participate. Conservation Commission meetings are at Town Hall at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Monday of each month.

Thank you,
Sharon Conservation Commission

Karen Hewett, Margaret Raymond, Rueben Sotak, Dick Rubin, Scot Chestnut,
Fritz Weiss, Mike Zwickelmaier, Peter Lowes

Sharon Green Up Report 2018

Saturday May 6, 2018 was another beautiful Green Up day! This year our Green Up theme was “Cherish Mother Earth.” There were folks working at the town garage. There were folks gathering trash along the roads. Students at the Sharon Elementary School learned about the importance of “greening up”. They picked up trash, separated out recyclables and redeemables, and made posters about Cherishing Mother Earth -- working toward a better world.

We walked our roads and, in some cases, climbed down over our banks and picked up all the litter. We should be proud! We did that and then we sorted all that “stuff” with discretion, so that less than half of what was gathered actually went to the Lebanon landfill (thank you road crew!). The rest was recycled at the Hartford Transfer Station down in WRJ or given to the Boy Scouts for redemption. Scrap metal was collected, along with electronics and many many tires. We offered all the volunteers snacks and water, and those working at the garage were even fed cookies and sandwiches.

We gave The Sharon School money to support a school-wide pizza party in thanks for their contributions and support. Books related to the theme were donated to the school library. After it was all over, those with a bit more energy after 8 hours of work gathered at the Sharon Academy for a pizza party hosted by the TSA students. As they say, “if you have to work, make it fun and enjoy doing it!”

Thank you to all who took the time to make Sharon the truly wonderful town it is. Now for Saturday May 4th 2019. See you there!

Peter Lowes
Green-Up Coordinator



GREEN UP VERMONT
P.O. Box 1191
Montpelier, Vermont 05601-1191
(802)229-4586, or 1-800-974-3259
greenup@greenupvermont.org
www.greenupvermont.org

Green Up Day marked its 48th Anniversary, with over 22,000 volunteers participating! Green Up Vermont, a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization, continues to proudly carry on this tradition. Green Up Vermont is not a State Agency, and 75% of our revenues comes from corporate and individual donations. People can now choose to donate to Green Up Vermont by entering a gift amount on Line 29 of the Vermont State Income Tax Form. **Green Up Vermont thanks the Town of Sharon for its ongoing support in the amount of \$100!**

STRAFFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Strafford Conservation Commission (SCC) sponsored or participated in the following activities in 2018:

- In January, the SCC voted to support efforts proposed by the Alliance of Vermont Communities (AVC) and the Upper Valley Trails Alliance to establish a new hiking trail on the Manning property located on Robinson Road. The property has been conserved by the Upper Valley Land Trust.
- On May 17th, a new granite bench on the Strafford Common was dedicated to the memory of John T. Hemenway to commemorate his contributions to conservation, sustainable forestry practices and historic preservation.
- Also, in May, there was a discussion, co-sponsored by the Strafford Historical Society, on the topic of ancient roads and byways, by Paul Gillies, an attorney and an authority on the history of Vermont's roads.
- David Paganelli, Orange County Forester and SCC member, made a presentation on the threat posed by the Emerald Ash-Borer, an invasive insect which will have a devastating impact on the region's ash trees, a species representing a significant percentage of all Vermont's trees.
- In July, Alex Buskey and Michael Sacca, representing the AVC and in conjunction with the Vermont Land Trust, reported on progress in acquiring the Ashley Parcel, a 268-acre property straddling Strafford and Sharon. They proposed the creation of a community forest, owned and cooperatively managed by Strafford and Sharon, which would be available to the public for recreational purposes such as hiking and skiing as well as for sustainable forestry practices and wildlife preservation. This parcel adjoins the Manning property and any trails created could link to the proposed Manning Trail.
- Trail Coordinator Mike Hebb in October discussed the addition of a new trail, the Cobb Trail, which connects to and extends the hiking opportunities on the Loop (Fen) Trail, located in the Town Forest on the west side of Hemenway Road.
- SCC member Micki Colbeck created a digital map locating not only conservation areas of specific significance in Strafford, but also, in

conjunction with the Energy Committee, identifying areas suitable for the development of non-residential alternative energy infrastructure. This map is intended to assist the Energy Committee's preparation of an Enhanced Energy Plan, which as an amendment to the current Town Plan would enable the Town of Strafford to participate in Public Utility Commission proceedings on the proposed siting and installation of non-residential alternative energy infrastructure in Strafford.

- Finally, the SCC has been engaged in developing Management Plans for Town recreational parcels, including Whitcomb Hill, the Town Forest and Old City Falls Nature Area.

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 SCC has nine members: Micki Colbeck, Steve Faccio, Mike Hebb, J.T. Horn, Jared Jenisch, David Paganelli, Kate Root, Chuck Sherman and Steve Willbanks.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Willbanks, Chair

STRAFFORD TRAIL SYSTEM

This system is a resource of the town allowing access to high ridge lines, natural areas, rare plant communities and town-owned properties and is managed by the Conservation Commission. Strafford's trail system is now close to 20 miles in length including the sections added in 2017 and in 2018. It is made possible by the 27 land owners who allow public access over their property. Their gift to the town is appreciated by many. Several groups from outside the town like the Green Mountain Club schedule hikes on our trails.

Recently we have added a half-mile trail in the town forest we call the Cobb Hill trail in honor of Dr. Gardner Cobb, who donated the land.

New trails are planned for portions of the town forest that are difficult to access presently. 'We are always evaluating other expansion opportunities.

Our 9 volunteers maintain sections of the trail system, clearing blow downs and intruding growth. Erosion problems have been rare but in places are becoming evident with continued use. Litter or other abuses are nonexistent. Our policy of "human powered access" is working. Motor vehicle use is so rare as to be a non-issue.

A future improvement we'd like to see is better parking facilities. Some of the current lots are on private property and hikers feel they are intruding.

All in all, it is an ongoing but successful project.

Mike Hebb

Trails Manager

Strafford Conservation Commission

THETFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION



The Thetford Conservation Commission's mission is to learn about, cherish, and conserve our natural environment. In support of that mission, we manage town properties, plan with town committees and state agencies for future conservation, and host educational and service events. We're grateful for the enthusiastic involvement of many of you at those events, and we welcome your continued support. Join us!

Activities of the past year included:

February

- Highlights from the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival

May

- Coordination of Green Up Day efforts involving many townspeople
- Bird and nature walk at the Taylor Floodplain Preserve led by Dr. George Clark and hosted by Tim and Janet Taylor

June

- Continuing efforts to "beat back" the invasive garlic mustard
- Hike and exploration of Thetford State Park led by Thetford Academy's Outdoor Program Director, Scott Ellis

July

- Reptile and amphibian walk led by Oriante Society biologist, Kiley Briggs

August

- Butterfly identification walk at Post Mills Nature Area led by Bill Shepard

October

- Wood turtle biology and conservation talk by Kiley Briggs

November

- First stage of an inventory of the Town's natural resources
- Presentation by biologists from Squam Lake Nature Center about animals with "bad reputations"

We sadly said goodbye to two of our long-time members who "retired" from the Commission: Libby Chapin and Ann Lavanway.

We welcome new members Sara Cavin and Judy Harvey and the return of Connie Snyder, resuming her long service to the community.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Lehman, Chair

Weathersfield Conservation Commission
Activity Report
March 2019

The past year or so found the Weathersfield Conservation Commission (WCC) continuing site visits to subdivisions or other developments, offering expertise on potential impacts to natural resources. Throughout the summer of 2018, one WCC member worked with the Black River Action Team (BRAT) testing and reporting on E. coli levels of the North Branch stream in town. WCC members are also part of various town commissions and associations, while often participating in area group meetings as needed: Weathersfield Planning Commission, Connecticut River Joint Commission, Town Forest Recreation Commission, Village Revitalization meetings, and more.

In December of 2017, the WCC sponsored a two part community talk focused on how small and large landowners could undertake projects to improve habitat for both game and non-game species. The first session took place at Martin Memorial Hall with two guest speakers from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife department. The second session, led by a professional forester, took place at a local, privately owned project site that had received funds from the Natural Resources Council (NRC). In October of 2018, the WCC hosted a talk on bobcats by Kim Royar from the State of Vermont Fish and Wildlife. This was a particularly interesting and well attended talk.

Future activities currently in discussion or approved:

- Produce a Weathersfield natural areas brochure for visitors and residents.
- Contribute volunteer hours to support the implementation of the new Town Forest Recreation Plan.
- Do a rural road inventory of ash trees to aid in the development of a town Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Preparedness Plan.
- Sponsor a local wildlife photo contest.
- Continue organizing and sponsoring community talks.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Shand

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West Windsor Conservation Commission

*Ted Siegler, Mark Nowlan, Laura Stillson,
Barbara Gerstner, Chris Nesbitt, Katherine Wood, Sue Greenall
Cathy Boedtke, Rudy Gross*

Annual Report
2018

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 2018 the Conservation Commission worked on:

- An analysis of the impacts of moving from Flood Plain Zoning to River Corridor Zoning;
- 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, including the successful relocation of the Class 4 Blood Hill Road section on the Johannensen property; and,
- Management of Town Forest Easement.

Respectfully Submitted

Ted Siegler, Chair

PARADISE PARK COMMISSION

During the past fiscal year Paradise Park continued to be a major recreational and environmental resource for Windsor and surrounding communities. Uses include fishing, hiking, birdwatching, photography, camping, education and enjoying the incredibly diverse habitats and the plants and wildlife that live in the park.

Paradise Park was host to the State Street kindergarten Forest Fridays outdoor education program, March Intensive activities for older students, the Scouts' annual winter Klondike Derby and Julie Aylward's summer theatre program.

One major focus point for the Paradise Park Commission was researching various options to replace a bridge over Hubbard Brook near the carriage trails. We decided to hire the Upper Valley Trails Alliance to design and install a footbridge that was completed in the spring by Valley Trails Alliance staff and volunteers and Windsor volunteers.

Another major focus has been problems of erosion, siltation and flooding. With the support of the Commission the town paid for a hydrology study to assess problems and possible solutions. Below are excerpts from the report: (The full report can be seen on the Town website.)

To: Town of Windsor

From: Evan Fitzgerald, Evelyn Boardman, and Joe Bartlett

Re: Paradise Park Stormwater and Flooding Concerns

Date: June 15, 2018

Fitzgerald Environmental Associates (FEA) was retained by the Town of Windsor (Town) to conduct watershed mapping, field survey, reporting, and grant scoping to address sediment loading, poor water conveyance, and water quality problem areas in Paradise Park and the lower Hubbard Brook watershed. FEA has reviewed existing watershed mapping of drainage features and erosion potential from various sources. FEA has conducted field survey of the drainage channels in the area between Juniper Hill Road, the north dike of Lake Runnemede, and the culvert carrying Hubbard Brook beneath Route 5. FEA has identified erosion hazards and stormwater BMP opportunities in Paradise Park and the areas draining to the park (i.e., Mount Ascutney Hospital)....

There is no clear solution to the flooding of the land adjacent to the tributary and along Juniper Hill Road. The homes and lawns are adjacent to the wetland, where the naturally sinuous channel is likely change course and become dammed by beavers, sediment, and vegetation. Management of channels and alteration of the wetland to alleviate nuisance flooding is not likely to be permitted by state and federal regulatory agencies under current rules and policy....

Next Steps

We recommend the Town consider partnering with Mount Ascutney Hospital to pursue funding to design and implement stormwater features on the Hospital campus and along the County Road right-of-way. Potential grant sources include the VTDEC Clean Water Initiative and VTDEC Clean Water Block Grant. The Southern Windsor County Planning Commission may also suggest additional grant funding sources, and/or assist with grant applications. We believe these projects would be reviewed favorably given the severe erosion problems downstream in Paradise Park.

Consider pursuing funding sources for projects within Paradise Park beyond the Town's ability to implement. The Town and PPC can likely implement PP-1, PP-2, and PP-3 with its own labor, equipment and perhaps volunteer labor from PPC. Further design work is needed for PP-4 and PP-5.

The 24"-diameter culvert under Juniper Hill Road is undersized. Although its size does not appear to contribute to flooding upstream during normal to moderately elevated flows, it may exacerbate flooding during high flows. The recommendations provided in the hydraulics study (Northstar Hydro, 2016) should be considered to prevent flooding during large events.

Between October 25th and October 27th, 2017, the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department conducted a fish community survey on Lake Runnemede in Windsor. Here is an excerpt from their report: (The full report can be seen on the Town website.)

*We collected the following fish species: Largemouth bass, Rock bass, Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Common carp, Chain pickerel, Brown bullhead. Each of the species captured are common throughout the state and would be expected in a warm-water pond environment. Although no yellow perch were captured, several individuals were observed during the sampling process. We also did not collect any northern pike which are known to be present in Lake Runnemedede based on angler reports, several of which have been documented in local newspapers. This list should not be viewed as a definitive compilation of all fish species in Lake Runnemedede; it is possible that there are additional species present that were not detected during our sampling efforts. Angler reports have all indicated Lake Runnemedede is a prolific fishery with abundant panfish and large northern pike. **The introduction of additional fish species into Lake Runnemedede would not only be illegal under Vermont statute (10 V.S.A. §4605), but could also potentially introduce foreign pathogens and disrupt the current ecological balance of the lake. To limit this risk, we strongly encourage anglers to not transport fish between water bodies and for those fishing with live bait to properly dispose of any unused baitfish by killing and discarding them on the ice or shore prior to leaving the water body.***

The Paradise Park Commission has also been discussing the need to update the Paradise Park management plan. We have agreed to combine the two current management plans for the park (one town forest, the other for the wetlands and lake). The lake side management plan doesn't expire until 2022, but the town forest side plan is from 1995 and doesn't have an expiration date, though all agree it's out of date. Work on the management plan will continue throughout the next fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,
Marv Klassen-Landis, Chair

2018 TOWN OF WOODSTOCK CONSERVATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

The Conservation Commission held nine regularly scheduled meetings and a number of site visits in 2018. The Commission conducted two wetland site visits and six riparian reviews in conjunction with ongoing permit applications. There were no Scenic Ridgeline applications this year.

The Conservation Commission reviewed a number of changes to the Village Zoning Regulations and the Municipal Plan. The Village Zoning is currently being rewritten. The main effort is to coordinate riparian and wetland reviews to fall in line with that mandated at the Town level. The Energy Chapter of the Town Plan was rewritten. This will allow Woodstock a voice at the Public Service Board's table during alternative energy applications (for the most part solar farms). Late last year it was determined that the Town Plan also needs to add a section on forests concerning parcelization of large lots and on wildlife connectivity. Fortunately, the Commission has been working on these issues for the past few years, mainly concerning the Town's southwest corner. This should help expedite the rewrite process.

The Conservation Commission held one large event, a Roadside Invasive Workshop. The event was held in April just before the invasive plants start growing. The event drew numerous Conservation Commissioners from Upper Valley towns. Mike Bald, one of the more experienced Vermonters with invasive plants, Gerry Hawkes, forester and inventor, and Kevin Geiger, Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission's invasive plant expert, were the main speakers. The discussion soon involved all attendees revealing the depth of knowledge and local experience dealing with the invasive species. The chief roadside invasive species are Wild Parsnip, Wild Chervil and Giant Hogweed. Japanese Knotweed was also mentioned, although it prefers the wetter areas along water ways.

The Conservation Commission applied for two State Transportation grants related to bicycle and pedestrians. A request to paint sharrows (bicycle logos) and fog lines to create 10' vehicle lanes with the remainder of pavement serving as the bike lane was denied. A second grant to design an extension of the East End sidewalk 350' east from Pizza Chef restaurant to the Gallery Place Plaza was approved. The search for consultants is underway and one should be chosen in mid-winter.

The Conservation Commission continues to work with the concept of carbon sequestration in local forests. Lynn Peterson has been the lead person on this project. Together with Zach Ralph and Michael Caduto of Sustainable Woodstock, numerous monthly workshops were held throughout the year. The State Forest Commissioner participated in the last workshop of the year, showing the State may soon be showing more interest in this subject. Trees naturally absorb carbon as they grow and serve as a storage vessel in old age. Making quality long term furniture out of hard wood is a great way to extend the carbon storage cycle. The State's current use program should be amended to recognize the importance of carbon sequestration.

During the course of the year many members attended numerous conferences and workshops held around the state. This is a valuable contribution by the members, as not all members are able to attend these important events. The members are then able to share the information gathered with the rest of the membership at the following meeting.

The Conservation Commission membership has remained constant for the past few years. Lea Kachadorian, an original member from 1989, has stepped down after many productive years of service. Her love of wetlands evolved into the 2004 Arrowwood Wetland Study that serves as the official map and catalogue of the town's Class III wetlands. This summer, Howard Krum was appointed to replace Lea and become our newest member. Should one desire to become a member please contact Town Planner, Michael Brands at 802-457-7515, mbrands@townofwoodstock.org or attend a Conservation Commission meeting which are regularly scheduled for the third Wednesday evening of each month at 7:00pm.

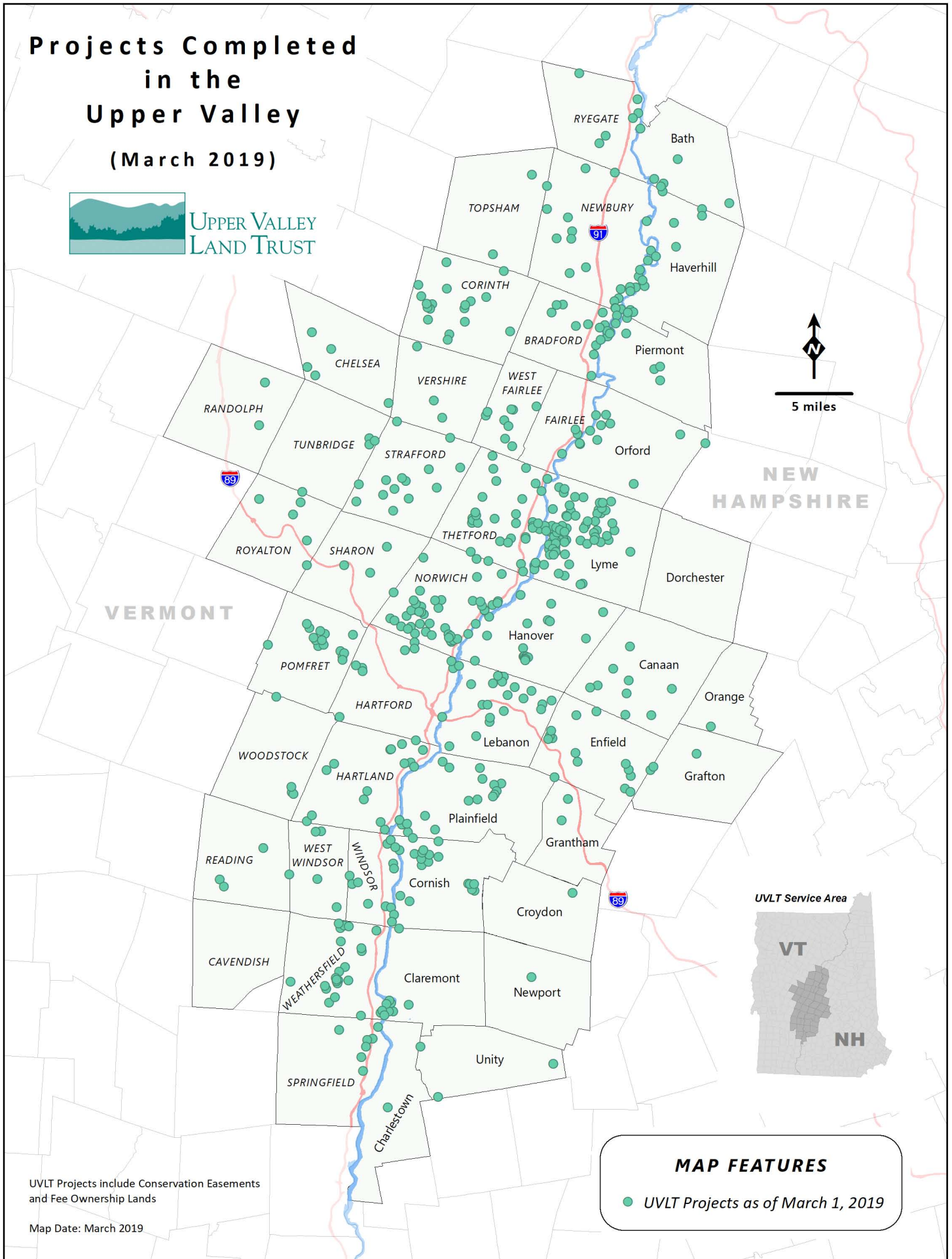
One does not need to be a member to attend and/or participate in Conservation Commission activities. All members of the public are invited. Conservation Commission agendas and activities are posted on three bulletin boards (the Town Hall, the Norman Williams Public Library and the EMS building in the East End) and on the Town's website: townofwoodstock.org.

Projects Completed in the Upper Valley

(March 2019)



UPPER VALLEY
LAND TRUST



UVLT Projects include Conservation Easements
and Fee Ownership Lands

Map Date: March 2019

MAP FEATURES

● UVLT Projects as of March 1, 2019



UPPER VALLEY
LAND TRUST

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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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