

CAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2001

During 2001 the CCC welcomed 2 new members: Dave McGraw, a GIS(computer mapping) specialist; and Mary Durgin, native Campton resident known by many through various community work. We thank Ann McDermott for having served as secretary. The commission meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at the Town Office. All are welcome!

The commission reviews Wetland and Forestry applications and may comment to the state bureaus. This year there were few applications. Residents are reminded that when planning work such as a driveway or logging operation over or near wetlands or surface waters a permit is required. Wetlands include marshes, bogs, swamps, and vernal pools. Surface waters include ponds, brooks and seasonal streams. Bog Pond is receiving repairs to the dam. The CCC was involved with property owners and local and state officials to ensure this valuable natural and recreational area remains in tact for the town.

CCC members attended workshops and seminars on various topics and have met with conservation members on commissions in our region to discuss items of mutual concern. We hope to work on some collaborative projects in the future.

This is the first year after the establishment of the Conservation Fund from monies collected from the Land Use Change Tax, as voted at Town Meeting 2001. The cap of \$5,000 was reached, establishing the Conservation Fund.

During 2001, discussions with a property owner continued toward the goal of a generous gift of land to the town for conservation. Details and final survey and deed work is being completed and the gift is expected to be made soon. You will notice a Warrant Article asking for the town to designate the 17.5 acre property as a Town Forest. Look for our display about the property at Town Meeting and later in the Town Office. Conservation Fund money collected from the LUCT will help the donor by paying survey and some legal costs. The CCC is very excited about getting this property for the town and plans to work with the donor to create a management plan for the property in 2002.

Also during 2002, the CCC will be carrying out its legislated obligation to complete a Natural Resources Inventory for the town. Many towns are now working on NRIs using GIS technology and are finding the maps invaluable to Planning and Zoning Boards, Water Districts and Selectmen for effective planning and decision making. CCC member, Dave McGraw, will be leading this project and giving much of his professional expertise to carry out this valuable project.

The commission discussed and adopted a mission statement: *The Campton Conservation Commission (CCC) believes the community is sustained by its natural landscapes, clean water, forest and agricultural products, and varied habitats for plants and animals. The CCC sees its mission as working to preserve, protect, and properly utilize these resources for current and future residents of the town.*

Sincerely,

Jane Kellogg: Chair

Ron Crowe, Mary Durgin, Dave McGraw, Robbin Adams: Members