

CAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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The commission's mission statement (adopted in 2001): *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.*

We welcomed Bryon Middlekauff to the Commission, which now stands at 6 members. Those interested in becoming involved should contact the CCC or the Select Board, or attend a meeting. Meetings are held at the town office on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm (Nov.-Apr), or at 7:30pm (May-Oct).

The Conservation Fund is a trust held by the town for the purpose of conservation projects or acquisitions. 50% of the Land Use Change Tax monies are deposited into the fund. In 2010, the fund gained \$107,700 in deposits and \$443.68 interest. \$1,325.37 in expenditures were made from the fund in 2010. The total balance of the Fund at the end of the year is \$173,324.53. Of the monies deposited into the Fund, \$101,755 came from the sale of the late Ed Pattee's house on Blair Road, having obtained voter approval at the 2010 Town Meeting to redeposit the funds. At this year's town meeting there will be a warrant that, if passed, will allow the conservation fund to be used to help owners of conservation lands with stewardship fees. This is necessary as a result of a new state law. Look for more information about this at the time of town meeting.

We continued in 2010 to work toward a groundwater protection plan and ordinance for the town. With help from Nick Sceggel of Granite State Rural Water (GSRW), we conducted a windshield survey of businesses atop the aquifer and held a public hearing to obtain feedback about the process. Ultimately, the selectboard voted not to make application to the state for reclassification, and our focus now has shifted to implementing a Source Water Protection Plan which educates all local residents about the importance of protecting our groundwater resources for the future. Be on the lookout for tips and reminders about what you can do to protect our valuable aquifer.

You may have noticed some activity at the Pattee Conservation Park this year! We installed a new sign at the corner of Blair Road and Route 175, marked and cut a small trail system through the property (look for the mowed paths in the field and improved trail markers this spring!), and hired a surveyor to complete a survey of the boundaries. We also partnered with the Campton Garden Club and the Campton Historical Society to plant a Liberty Elm tree at the property. The organizations worked together to fund, plant, water, fence, and tend to the Dutch Elm-resistant tree, and we hope it will grow into a longstanding fixture in the Campton landscape! A simple parking area along Route 175 was approved, and we will be delineating the lot with rustic fencing this spring. Last year, we decided to mow every 2-3 years in order to provide habitat for grassland species. We welcome walkers, skiers, and snowshoers, and remind visitors that snowmobiling in the open field is permitted, but motorized wheeled vehicles are prohibited. Summer visitors should be on the lookout for poison ivy along the rock wall; we are reluctant to use herbicides, so please be ivy-aware!

Blair Woodland Natural Area (BWNA), located on Route 3, continues to draw visitors from near and far - and this summer was written up in the Record Enterprise! We remind visitors that the trails are open year-round; however, the parking lot is closed in winter. Winter parking is available on Blair Road at the Country Cow Restaurant or the Blair Covered Bridge.

New for this year is a set of four photo notecards depicting scenes at BWNA, made possible through a donation from Leah Gray. The cards are available for a suggested donation of \$10 and are currently available at the CCC display at the Town Office; proceeds go to support conservation projects.

The CCC adopted a 2-mile section of state roadway from Exit 27 up Blair Road, then south along Route 175. At our first cleanup day in November, CCC members and four community volunteers collected 11 bags of trash! Grateful thanks to our volunteers, and look for our next cleanup in the spring.

Residents are reminded that a permit is needed when planning work such as driveways, logging operations over or near wetlands or surface waters, or shoreland development along the Pemi and Mad Rivers. NHDES information and applications for wetland or shoreland permits can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office or on the DES website. Property owners interested in considering conservation of their property can contact the commission for support, advice or for referrals to other conservation professionals. The CCC encourages use of our lending resource library which is located at the Campton Public Library. If you would like to receive periodic updates via email, please join our email list by signing up at the Town Office. The CCC also works hard to keep info on our website (<http://www.camptonnh.org/conservation.htm>) useful.

Sincerely,

Jessica Halm, Melissa Greenwalt-Yelle, Co Chairs

Jules Doner, Jane Kellogg, Bryon Middlekauff, and Tammy Wooster