

CAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2012 Annual Report

2012 began with efforts to gain support for passage of a warrant article relative to RSA 36A: 4-a, I (b) which allows the CCC to expend funds for contributions to qualified organizations such as land trusts. The Town approved passage of the article which means the CCC can now use Conservation Fund money more efficiently by leveraging the dollars of other partners in land conservation deals. The CCC thanks the town for its continued support.

Much of the remainder of the year was focused on public education and outreach. In June, The CCC partnered with the Margaret and H.A. Rey Center to launch Nature Nights at Blair Woodland Natural Area (BWNA), an 8 week hands-on nature exploration program for families. 42 participants learned about the many plant and animal species that inhabit the BWNA and came away with a greater appreciation for this special place in town. Nature Nights was funded by generous donations from Leah Gray, Woodpeckers Restaurant & Pub, Ski Fanatics, Ehlers Mgmt. Group, Mountain Mapping, The Halm Family, Frank Freeman, and 3 anonymous donors. These donation dollars were matched by The Rey Center.

In May The CCC began work on an outreach campaign to landowners in the Bog Pond Area using the State Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) as a tool. The WAP was developed by NH Fish & Game with a goal of identifying and mapping the different wildlife habitats across the state and ranking them according to conservation value. The recently updated WAP identifies Bog Pond and its supporting landscape as a high ranking wildlife habitat. The CCC sent a questionnaire to Bog Pond area landowners to gauge interest in meeting to talk about Bog Pond. This resulted in an informal gathering hosted by Pat Barker where a small group shared Bog Pond knowledge and conservation thoughts, and marked wildlife sightings on a Campton habitat map provided by UNH Cooperative Extension. This map was also displayed on Town voting day where residents set pushpins to mark their wildlife sightings around town. Planning began for a winter frozen bog walk which is scheduled for January 2013.

Beginning in March CCC members began attending monthly meetings of the Livermore Falls Stakeholders group. The meetings were called in response to the growing problems of littering, illegal drinking, parking and public safety at the popular swimming area. Stakeholders include representatives from state and local police, Fish and Game, PSU, Bureau of Forests and Lands, DRED, and The Plymouth Rotary club. Resolutions to date include stepped up law enforcement, new signage, vegetation clearing and outreach to the college community. A Friends of Livermore Falls group is forming to further the monitoring and outreach effort.

2012 CCC land management work at BWNA and Pattee Conservation Park (PCP) included trail clearing, minor bridge repairs and mowing of the PCP perimeter path. On Earth Day litter was cleaned up along Blair Road, Rte 3 and Rte 175 as part of the CCC Adopt-A-Highway commitment. The A-Plus after school program used the PCP field this summer to grow pumpkins for students to decorate in the fall.

In July the CCC welcomed new member Alisoun Hodges who works in Visitors Services at the

Forest Service Headquarters in Campton.

Our members continue to stay current in conservation topics and in 2012 attended informational meetings including The Saving Special Places and NH Water Conferences, and the Making Progress to Protect Drinking Water and Speaking for Wildlife workshops.

The year end balance of the Conservation Fund was \$178,940.49, with \$4,235.00 added from the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT). Property owners interested in considering conservation of their land can contact the CCC for financial support, advice or for referrals to conservation professionals. The CCC encourages use of our lending resource library, which is located in the town office.

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 permit applications can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office or on the DES website.

There are many and various opportunities for residents to be involved with the work of the CCC. We invite you to join us in our efforts to protect Campton's natural resources. There is room for 7 commissioners and 2 alternates, so we are looking for those interested in this work to attend a meeting or contact any commissioner. You can contact us at our new e-mail address conservation@camptonnh.org or sign up as a constant contact through the Town website to receive notifications of CCC happenings.

The 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 meet on the second Wednesday of each month. See the town website for meeting dates and times.

Finally, 2012 marks the end of 10 years of service by Commissioner Jules Doner who will be stepping down in 2013. Jules will not only be missed for his tireless work, but also for his unique perspective as a long time resident of the town. If you see Jules around town be sure to thank him!

Sincerely,

The Campton Conservation Commission

Jules Doner, Jess Halm, Alisoun Hodges, Jane Kellogg, Lea Stewart, and Tammy Wooster