

CAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CCC) 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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.*

The Conservation Commission, with help from Ron Reynolds, continued work on revising the 2005 Natural Resources Inventory. As the year ends, final drafts are being worked on and GIS maps are being inserted to enhance the document's accuracy and usefulness to the town. There are plans to have some printed copies available at the Town Office, as well as digital copies accessible on the CCC website in the early months of 2016.

The Commission continues to manage the 2 town-owned conservation properties: Blair Woodland Natural Area(BWNA) and Pattee Conservation Park(PCP). The Rey Center and CCC commissioners Jess Halm and Rebecca Steeves held 8 Nature Night sessions for families at BWNA during July and August. Sessions had between 6-15 participants. We had financial help with these programs from MVSBS and The Little Red Schoolhouse. The Pattee field was mowed this year and the pathway from parking to the Liberty Tree was kept mowed. The Campton Garden Club continues to partner on care of the Liberty Tree. It required some watering this year.

The commission manages the town's Conservation Fund. In 2015, \$ 10,489 was deposited from Land Use Change Tax(LUCT), and \$ 31.42 of interest incurred. One withdrawal of \$ 625 was made for funding The Rey Center's educational Nature Nights at BWNA. A second withdrawal of \$425 was made to pay a local contractor for PCP field mowing. The Commission received a \$100 donation from a resident which was deposited into the fund. After the CCC 2014 report was filed, a discrepancy in LUCT deposited to the fund was discovered. An additional transfer of \$6,065 was made to the fund on February 23, 2015. Balance of the fund on 12/31/15 is \$ 204,250.68.

We continue to closely follow, attend meetings and report on news relative to the proposed Northern Pass project. Two complex permitting processes for the proposed Northern Pass Transmission (NPT) project ramped up this summer. The CCC along with Campton residents Tom Mullen and George Wright submitted an article to 11 area newspapers explaining how citizens can have a voice in these processes. In July, the Dept of Energy (DOE) released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and then added a supplement in September. We will be submitting comments relative to the EIS and encourage others to do so. The deadline for comments has been extended until April 4, 2016. To review the EIS or make comments visit <http://www.northernpasseis.com>. Also in September were public hearings held by NPT, which are required as part of the State Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) permitting process. A new route was proposed adding 52 miles of buried line through several towns including Campton. CCC members attended and submitted written and verbal comments stating that if the project is deemed

necessary, then the line should be buried along the entire route. We regularly receive updates from local opposition groups and will stay involved as the permitting processes continue into 2016.

Other continuing activities this year included managing submission of "Conservation Matters" articles to The Record Enterprise. Seven other conservation/natural resource groups are presently taking turns writing articles on a variety of topics. Our roadside clean-up took place twice this year, spring and fall. We welcome residents' help, particularly those living along the route where we pick up trash: Blair Road and 175 south of Blair Road to Pulsifer Hill Rd. We held our third annual Frozen Bog Walk in February, led by Lea Stewart. About 16 participants found a nice variety of animal tracks. We have also had help from Leona Minnicucci to update our website. Look for improvements in 2016.

CCC members continue to stay current in conservation related topics and attended various events including the NH Assoc. of Conservation Commissions and DES Groundwater Source Protection conferences, and meetings of the Lakes Region Planning Commission, and Pemi River Local Advisory Committee. Other ongoing work includes the review of wetland permit application, permits for the Northern Pass project, and outreach to landowners interested in conserving their land. We continue to follow projects on the Beebe River Tract by The Conservation Fund, NH Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited and others as it progresses toward becoming Campton's largest conservation area. We had display materials and maps available at 2015 voting and town meeting on this project. Look for more again in 2016.

The Friends of the Pemi-Livermore Falls Chapter continues to grow and push towards the goal of revitalizing the scenic and historic Livermore Falls area, both on the Campton(West) and Holderness(East) sides of the river. The effort is now a Plymouth Rotary project and also involves PSU and others. CCC members continue to regularly attend meetings with the various local and State agency representatives and interested citizens. Progress is being made to improve the experience of visitors to the east side beach area and river float put-in. The involvement of Friends of the Pemi volunteers on busy days has included at least one Campton resident. The Campton side continues to be unsafe around the old mill, erosion from high water events make the river difficult to access, and legal parking along Rt 3 is limited and confusing. CCC members have been pushing for the state to close the west side until positive changes can be made. More can be learned by reading the Friends of the Pemi annual report or going to their website. There are Historic and Environmental subcommittees working on various projects. Those interested in helping improve this important resource, can contact us about how to become involved.

This year, we welcomed David Peeler to the Commission, which now stands at 7 members. Those interested in becoming involved should contact the CCC or Select Board, or attend a meeting. CC meetings are open to the public and are held at the town office, on the first Wednesday of each month. The topic of the April meeting each year is management of the town's two conservation lands. Public involvement is welcome. Several times a year, we send out a newsletter to those signed up to receive it. Sign up at: conservationcommission@camptonnh.org.

Sincerely,

Shannon Garnsey, Jessica Halm, Alisoun Hodges, Jane Kellogg,

David Peeler, Rebecca Steeves, Tammy Wooster