

CAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2002

During 2002, the CCC welcomed 1 new member: Jim Blake, resident of Campton for over 20 years and avid hiker with strong conservation interests. At meetings this year we welcomed residents interested in being involved in planning the Town Forest project, and those interested in our rivers and Trout Unlimited projects.

Our most noteworthy accomplishment this year was the culmination in July of work with Leah Gray for her generous donation of 17 acres to the town as a Town Forest property. The property was surveyed and deed restrictions were negotiated, before the donation was made at a Selectmen's Meeting in July. Since then, the Conservation Commission has become more familiar with the property and has begun making plans to provide public access for the permitted uses. We cleaned road trash along Rt. 3, walked the property with local historian Alan Hill, made a list of tree species found, and began flagging trails. A grant application was completed in December for funding from "Moose Plate" proceeds to complete plans for parking, a kiosk, necessary bridges, and benches, and various signage. Many community members will be involved in the project as we begin work in spring of 2003.

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.

Commission members are involved in other committee work that collaborates with our interests, such as the town Master Plan Revision Committee, the Permigewasset River Local Advisory Committee, Historical Society, and Planning Board. CCC members also attend workshops and seminars offered on various topics.

This is the second year since 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 again this year. In 2002, Fund expenditure was made for survey work on the Town Forest property mentioned above. The present balance is about \$6300.

The CCC is 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 find the maps invaluable to Planning and Zoning Boards, Water Districts, Selectmen and others for effective planning and decision making. CCC member, Dave McGraw, is leading this project and is donating his professional expertise to carry out this valuable work.

The commission carried out 2 clean-up projects this year. One was a spring road clean-up in the general village area, the other a fall river clean-up on a section of the Mad River. Look for more such activities in the coming year. We continue to keep a bookshelf in the Town Office containing materials of interest to residents. We encourage all to check it out, and sign out materials.

The commission generally meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Town Office. We will be looking to increase the commission to full

membership of 7 in the coming year. We welcome any and all interested in our work to attend our meetings or contact us about involvement in our projects.

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.*

Sincerely,

Jane Kellogg: Chair

Jim Blake, Ron Crowe, Mary Durgin, Dave McGraw