

## **CAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CCC) 2017 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 Commission continues to manage the 2 town-owned conservation properties: Pattee Conservation Park(PCP) and Blair Woodland Natural Area(BWNA). In late September, the final event of the town's 250th celebration was held in Pattee field. (Look for details of that fun event in the 250 Committee report.) In preparation for the event, the PCP field was mowed 3 times this year, and the pathway from parking to the Liberty Tree continued to be mowed by a friend and neighbor to the property when needed. Thank you! The Campton Garden Club continues to partner on care of the Liberty Tree. This year the tree seemed to show positive results after mulching and fertilizing and frequent watering last year. The CTFD conducted a controlled burn of the abandoned "Blanchard House" on the property. At BWNA, The Rey Center held 6 Nature Night sessions for families during July and August. Sessions had between 6-15 participants.

The commission manages the town's Conservation Fund. In 2017, \$ 5,175 was deposited from Land Use Change Tax(LUCT), and \$ 20.43 of interest incurred. Withdrawals were made: \$450 for funding The Rey Center's educational Nature Nights at BWNA, and \$ 2552 for dumpster and clean-up after the controlled burn of the Blanchard House at PCP. The Commission received a \$250 donation from Shirley and David Parish which was deposited into the fund. Balance of the fund on 12/31/17 was \$ 207,472.

The CCC continues to follow the proposed Northern Pass Transmission Project which is currently going through permitting processes at both the state and federal levels. Members attended information sessions, hearings, and workshops, and rallies throughout the year. We will remain engaged in 2018 and report on updates and action items at our monthly meetings.

Other continuing activities this year included managing submission of monthly "Conservation Matters" articles to The Record Enterprise. Seven other conservation/natural resource groups take 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 fifth annual Frozen Bog Tracking Walk in January, led by Lea Stewart. About 28 participants found a nice variety of animal tracks. January 28, 2018 is the date scheduled for the sixth annual walk. At Town Meeting photos of annual winter tracking events at Campton Bog and the recently completed Natural Resources Inventory(NRI) were shared with town residents.

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 applications,

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. Several permits for planned culvert and bridge work to improve fish habitat on the property were reviewed by CCC members.

The Friends of the Pemi-Livermore Falls Chapter continues to grow and push towards the goal of revitalizing the recreational, scenic and historic Livermore Falls area. The volunteer effort is led by Plymouth Rotary. CCC members continue to regularly attend meetings with members of the Campton Historical Society, State agency representatives and interested citizens. The West 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. In 2017, meetings and site visits on the west side have focused on plans for improvements to parking and visibility, safe access to the site, and signage about the site's rich history. In 2018, we can expect to see visible changes. The east side improvements made in previous years by the State of NH and the Friends group continue to be enjoyed by an increasing number of people floating the river to Plymouth, picnickers and swimmers, and fishermen. For a second summer, there was an archeological study conducted in the old mill and house site in the hollow. More can be learned by reading the Friends of the Pemi annual report or going to their website. Those interested in helping improve this important resource, can contact us or the Campton Historical Society about how to become involved.

Tammy Wooster resigned from the commission in 2017, upon moving from town. Her service as secretary, close follower of Northern Pass progress, and insight especially on natural resource topics at meetings and during work on the NRI was exceptionally invaluable. Thank you, Tammy! Richard (Dick) Osborne joined the commission early in 2017. The commission now stands at 6 members. Those interested in becoming involved should contact the CCC or Select Board, or attend a meeting. CCC 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.

Sincerely, (serving since)

Shannon Garnsey(2014), Jessica Halm(2005), Jane Kellogg(1999),

Dick Osborne(2017), David Peeler(2015), Rebecca Steeves(2013)