

CAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CCC) 2019 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). The field at PCP was mowed this fall, in preparation for a Veteran's 5K road race hosted by White Mountain Karate. The Campton Garden Club continues to partner on care of the Liberty Tree. At BWNA, commissioner Jess Halm led a group of eager Boy Scouts and their families around the trails to explore trees and shrubs growing on the property, and to discuss the many benefits we get from trees. In all, there were 10 people ranging from 5-55 years of age on the tour. The CCC is always willing to host local youth groups for educational forest and field tours at either of these town properties. Simply be in touch with any of our members.

The commission manages the town's Conservation Fund. In 2019, the CCC received generous donations totaling \$300 that were deposited in the Conservation Fund, and \$20.55 of interest incurred. There were no deposits made from Land Use Change Tax (LUCT). Two separate withdrawals were made from the Conservation Fund. One for \$1020 to send two Campton Elementary School students to the Barry Conservation Camp. The second withdrawal totaling \$10,000.00 to pay for 2 deposits on land Purchase and Sales Agreements being held in escrow towards an exciting potential conservation land purchase, described below. Balance of the fund on 12/31/19 was \$ 196,341.88.

2019 was the second year that we have sponsored two Campton residents to attend NH Fish and Game's Barry Conservation Camp in Milan, NH. We have worked closely with Katie Scambio at Campton Elementary School to select one boy and one girl to attend a week of this summer camp, based on applications and an interview process.

At year's end, the CCC is working with 2 property owners to conserve roughly 240 acres along West Branch Brook and bordering the White Mountain National Forest. If details fall into place, the town's Conservation Fund will be an important source of funding for the project, as well as applying for grants and looking for donations. We hope to have more to share with the town as this project develops.

Continuing activities this year included managing submission of monthly "Conservation Matters" articles to The Record Enterprise. Seven other conservation/natural resource groups in the area take turns writing articles on a variety of topics. Our roadside clean-up took place twice this year, in April and November. We now pick up trash the entire length of Blair Road and 175 north of Blair Road for 1.5 miles, near the intersection with Perch Pond Road. We welcome residents' help, particularly those living along the route. We held our 7th Annual Frozen Bog Tracking Walk in January, led by Lea Stewart. About 15 participants explored the frozen solid, wind-swept bog, finding evidence of active otters! January 26th, 2020 is the date scheduled for the 8th annual walk.

We are happy to announce, as most of you are aware, The New Hampshire Supreme Court issued a unanimous opinion on July 19, 2019 affirming the unanimous decision made by the New Hampshire

Site Evaluation Committee on March 30, 2018 to deny Northern Pass a Certificate of Site and Facility. Thank you to everyone who supported this effort!

CCC members continue to stay current in conservation related topics and attended various events and webinars 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, outreach to landowners interested in conserving their land, or landowners wanting to harvest timber resources. We continue to follow projects on the town's largest preserved area, the Beebe River Tract, by The Conservation Fund, NH Fish and Game, Trout Unlimited and others as projects there are being conducted each season.

There were some inquiries about visible timber harvesting within the community. The Commission has reached out to our county forester for assistance in reaching out to landowners with timber resources to help answer questions, plan for sustainable timber harvest practices, Best Management Practices, etc. Look for information we plan to make available again this year, or contact us anytime for such information.

The Friends of the Pemi-Livermore Falls Chapter continues to 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 (Campton) 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. Unfortunately, in 2019, we did not see visible improvements that were hoped for due to staff changes in state agencies working with the group. The east side improvements made in previous years by the State of NH and the Friends group continues to be enjoyed by an increasing number of people floating the river to Plymouth, picnickers and swimmers, and fishermen. For a fourth summer, there was an archeological study conducted below the falls. More can be learned by reading the Friends of the Pemi annual report or going to their website.

Selectman Dan Boynton joined the commission in April. 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, generally on the first Wednesday of each month at 7PM. The topic of the April meeting each year is management of the town's two conservation lands. Public involvement is welcome. We have also stepped into the world of communicating our news, other messages and archived articles through our website: www.camptonconservation.org and on Facebook: <https://facebook.com/CamptonConservationCommission>.

Sincerely (serving since),

Dan Boynton (2019), Shannon Garnsey(2014), Jessica Halm(2005),

Jane Kellogg(1999), Dick Osborne(2017), Rebecca Steeves(2013)