

## Conservation Matters

### Rumney Conservation Commission

November 2023

For those of you that travel Route 25 through Rumney, you might have noticed that the former State Rest Area is looking a little more welcoming these days. This summer, the Town of Rumney became the proud new owner of this beautiful parcel along the banks of the Baker River. The process entailed a collaborative effort between State of New Hampshire, the Rumney Conservation Commission and the Town of Rumney.

The town has begun cleaning up and mowing the site, and the hard work to return the area to its former splendor is about to begin! In past years, the iconic building provided bathroom facilities, information on local businesses and “things to do”. Many passersby have fond memories of having picnics in the shady area and a dip in the river; it has also been a favorite spot to launch canoes, kayaks and tubes for gentle floats downstream. And the Rest Area has provided a great spot for parking to access NH Snowmobile Trail #8. Although the years of neglect are evident, the building and grounds brim with untapped potential for Rumney residents and visitors, alike. The eight acres along the Baker River not only provide river access, but with a renovated facility the town of Rumney can expand the site’s use, seasonally and recreationally.

Access points to the Baker River are limited, so with this purchase, the town of Rumney has now secured a waterfront property for its residents to enjoy year round. Moreover, this portion of the riverfront is now protected from further outside development.

As part of strategic planning for the property, the town has formed a committee to brainstorm possibilities for the development of the site, such as offering concession rentals, creating an opportunity for community displays within the building, or..... The Conservation Commission is looking forward to working with these folks to develop a plan that meets the community’s needs while protecting the river corridor and the wetland ecosystem. Please join us and participate in the process. Your suggestions can be sent to the Town Office.



Photo #1



hoto #3



photo #4