

CAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2003

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 welcomed 2 new members this year: Jules Doner and James McGarr. Both are interested in the community and its natural environment. Each will serve a 2 year term. Mary Durgin left the commission after a 2 year term of service. She remains interested in our work and especially our collaborative efforts with the Historical Society. At year's end, Dave McGraw left the commission after about 2 and a half years of service. With the town now being served by a 5 member Select Board, one is designated to attend our meetings and be liaison. Jon Homer has been serving in that capacity.

The commission has had a busy year. The most concrete accomplishments have been on the 17 acre property given to the town in 2002 by Leah Gray. Our grant application for \$2,757 of "Moose Plate" funds from the State Conservation Committee was accepted and we completed the first year projects. All necessary permits were filed; trails were completed (about one mile); 2 bridges were built over small streams; the parking area was cleared, topsoil was removed, and covered with fill; a kiosk was built and installed; temporary signs were hung; and property(Blair Woodland Natural Area) and trail names were determined. Projects were coordinated by commission members, but could not have been completed without help from many others. A big "Thank you" goes to: Town Road Agent Ray Mardin for stump and topsoil removal, and help with installation of the kiosk; Skip Evans for tree removal and driveway and parking lot work; Kent and Mark Tower for kiosk construction; Rick Doell, Reed Harrigan and PRHS students and Plymouth Park and Rec Department for bridge construction; Scott Crosby, Ron Reynolds and Roger Demers for help with kiosk installation; Ray Webster for help starting our bird list; and Cheryl Johnson for digital photography on the property. Thanks also for those residents who bought a NH moose license plate for their vehicle. We received the proceeds from the equivalent of more than 100 of your purchases.

In February, the commission lead a snowshoe walk on Blair Woodland which was attended by about a dozen people. A second road clean-up was held in May. Commission members participate in collaboration with other groups in the community such as the Planning Board; the Master Planning Committee on the Master Plan revision; the Campton Historical Society on their program in May titled "New Hampshire Everlasting"; and the Pemigewasset River Local Advisory Committee. Commission members also attend workshops and seminars of various topics.

This is the third year since the 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. The fund brought Dijit Taylor's program titled "The Dollars and Sense of Open Space" which was offered to the community. The current balance of the fund is about \$11,584. The Conservation Commission believes this

fund is important for helping preserve important open space in our rural community. With increasing development pressures, the commission will be looking for ways to increase the rate of growth for this fund in the coming year.

The commission reviews Wetland and Forestry applications and may comment to the state bureaus. Residents are reminded that when planning work such as driveways or logging operation over or near wetlands or surface waters a permit is needed. Wetlands include marshes, bogs, swamps, and vernal pools. Surface waters include ponds, brooks, and seasonal streams. NHDES applications for wetland permits can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office.

The commission generally meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Town Office. We welcome any and all interested in our work to attend meetings or contact us about involvement in our projects.

Sincerely,

Jane Kellogg, Chair

Jim Blake, Ron Crowe, Jules Doner, James McGarr