

# Campton Conservation Commission

## Annual Report 2009

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.

Membership returned to 5 commissioners when we regretfully said goodbye to Lisa Doner, as she moved to Plymouth, we will miss her knowledge and energy. Those interested in becoming involved with the commission should contact a commissioner or the Select Board, or attend a meeting. Our meetings are held at the town office on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm (Nov. – Apr.), or at 7:30pm (May – Oct.).

The Conservation Fund is a trust held by the town for the purpose of conservation projects or acquisitions. 50% of Land Use Change Tax monies are deposited into the fund. In 2009, the fund gained \$2,598.00 in deposits and \$585.26 interest. No expenditures were made from the fund in 2009. The total balance of the Fund at the end of the year is \$66,506.22.

Much of the Commission's efforts this year were directed toward the sale of the late Ed Pattee's house on Blair Road, after having obtained voter approval at the 2009 Town Meeting for the sale. The Commission worked with local realtor Harry Hughen to successfully find a buyer for the house and its 0.5 acre lot, and since the closing in August, the Commission has continued to maintain a good relationship with the new owners of the property. Funds from the sale of the house will be returned to the Conservation Fund pending voter approval at Town Meeting.

Our April 2009 meeting focused on land management concerns and input by community members concerning CCC-managed properties. Residents attending helped choose a name for the newly acquired Pattee property: Pattee Conservation Park. We also discussed future management priorities of Town-owned properties.

The Pattee Conservation Park is currently open for low-impact activities such as walking or wildlife viewing; a small, rustic parking lot is in the works. Thanks to Lee Kidney for mowing the field this fall; in future years, we intend to mow every 2-3 years in order to provide habitat for grassland species. We also discussed future forestry management with the Grafton County Forester and investigated the future possibility of a small trail system.

We continue to welcome visitors to Blair Woodland Natural Area (BWNA), located on Route 3, south of the intersection with Blair Road – look for our new sign erected

this fall! The sign was made possible through a generous donation by Leah Gray, the former owner of the Blair Woodland property. Ron Reynolds designed and constructed the sign, and Craig Keeney donated his labor to weld the sign. Ian Halm, Eric Wooster, and Ron Reynolds helped the Commission hang the sign, and we hope it will attract passers-by. We remind visitors that the trails are open year-round; however, the parking lot is closed in winter. Winter parking is available on Blair Road at the Country Cow Restaurant or the Blair Covered Bridge.

We are working with the Campton Village Precinct to establish a groundwater protection plan and ordinance for the town. Campton was chosen as one of two towns in the state to have help from Granite State Rural Water (GSRW) with the groundwater reclassification process. With the superb work of Nick Sceggel from GSRW, and support from the Campton Village Precinct and Board of Selectmen, we have begun the process. The plan focuses on educating the public and local businesses about the importance of protecting our groundwater resources for the future, and best management practices for storage and use of hazardous chemicals.

The commission hosted an informational meeting about changes to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, provided land conservation information to two landowners, and reviewed wetland and alteration of terrain applications. Residents are reminded that a permit is needed when planning work such as driveways, logging operations over or near wetlands or surface waters, or shoreland development. NHDES applications for wetland or shoreland permits can be obtained from the Town Clerk's office. Property owners interested in considering conservation of their property can contact the commission for support, advice or for referrals to other conservation professionals to guide families with estate planning. The CCC encourages residents to use our lending resource library, which is now accessibly located at the Campton Public Library. The CCC works hard to keep info on our website (<http://www.camptonnh.org/conservation.htm>) current and useful.

*Sincerely,  
Jessica Halm, Melissa Greenawalt-Yelle, co-chairs  
Jules Doner, Jane Kellogg, and Tammy Wooster*