

CAMPTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CCC) 2016 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 Conservation Commission, with help from Ron Reynolds, completed two years of work to revise the 2005 Natural Resources Inventory. A few printed copies are at the Town Office and it is also available on the CCC website: www.camptonconservation.org. Conservation planning is the next project to work on in the coming year.

The Commission continues to manage the 2 town-owned conservation properties: Blair Woodland Natural Area(BWNA) and Pattee Conservation Park(PCP). The Rey Center held 8 Nature Night sessions for families at BWNA during July and August. Sessions had between 6-15 participants. The town Conservation Fund sponsored these programs. The PCP field was not mowed this year but the pathway from parking to the Liberty Tree was kept mowed by a friend and neighbor to the property. Thank you! The Campton Garden Club continues to partner on care of the Liberty Tree. This past year some serious tree mulching(donated by Top Notch) was needed along with continued watering. The CTFD began plans for conducting a controlled burn of the abandoned "Blanchard House" on the property, which should happen in the first half of 2017. The CCC hired an asbestos analysis done on the building in preparation for the burn. No asbestos was found. Plans are under way in 2017 for the PCP Field to serve as the location for Campton's 250th celebration in September.

The commission manages the town's Conservation Fund. In 2016, \$ 1811.30 was deposited from Land Use Change Tax(LUCT), and \$ 20.32 of interest incurred. Two withdrawals were made: _ \$500 for funding The Rey Center's educational Nature Nights at BWNA, and \$ 805 for asbestos testing of the PCP Blanchard House. The Commission received a \$250 donation from a resident which was deposited into the fund. Balance of the fund on 12/31/16 was \$ 205,027.30.

The CCC continues to stay up to date on 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 throughout the year. We also formally submitted comments to the DOE relative to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. We will remain engaged in 2017 and report on updates and action items at our monthly meetings.

Other continuing activities this year included managing submission of "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 fourth annual Frozen

Bog Tracking Walk in February, led by Lea Stewart. About 30 participants found a nice variety of animal tracks. January 29, 2017 is the date scheduled for the fifth annual walk.

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.

The Friends of the Pemi-Livermore Falls Chapter continues to grow and push towards the goal of revitalizing the scenic and historic Livermore Falls area, both on the West/ Rt 3 side and East/Livermore Rd sides of the river. The effort is lead by Plymouth Rotary. CCC members continue to regularly attend meetings with the various local and State agency representatives and interested citizens. 2016 progress solved the Livermore Rd parking problem with completion of a paved car parking lot and installation of a state park entrance. Parking fees of \$5 per car were started in August. State park employees also manned the parking and beach areas, leading to improved experiences for most visitors. The involvement of Friends of the Pemi volunteers on busy days has included at least one Campton resident. 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. CCC members have been pushing for the state to close the west side until positive changes can be made. In the final months of 2016, the focus shifted to work on improvements to these problems on the west side. More can be learned by reading the Friends of the Pemi annual report or going to their website. There are Historic and Environmental subcommittees working on various projects. Those interested in helping improve this important resource, can contact us or the Campton Historical Society about how to become involved.

Alisoun Hodges resigned from the commission in 2016, upon moving from town. Her service and insight at meetings and during work on the Natural Resources Inventory had been invaluable. The commission now stands at 6 members. Those interested in becoming involved should contact the CCC or Select Board, or attend a meeting. CC 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,

Shannon Garnsey, Jessica Halm, Jane Kellogg,

David Peeler, Rebecca Steeves, Tammy Wooster