

WALPOLE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Walpole Conservation Commission had a busy year in 2008. We joined with the Monadnock Community Partnership at well-attended events: the Energy Fair in May and Walpole Old Home Days in June. Our booths with a new eye-catching series of display maps, informational booklets and handouts were well received and we enjoyed talking to all those who stopped by. There is a new map showing all the protected lands in Walpole, which amount to 13.7% of the land in Walpole. At the Old Home Days the animal mount display was a hit with people trying to identify them.

We partnered with the Community Conservation Partnership to hold six educational hikes on protected town lands this past summer and fall. These were well attended and met with interest and enthusiasm. We hope to continue with similar events in 2009.

Members cleared a trail in the Fanny Mason Forest and plans are ongoing to have the forest marked and logged this coming year. It is anticipated that a lot of damage was done to our trails in the December ice storm and clean up will require much work.

A five-part leadership training conference given by the Community Conservation Partnership was held at the Keene Public Library last fall attended by our chairperson and two town citizens. The Community Conservation Partnership is made up of the following groups:

- The Monadnock Conservancy
- Center for Land Conservation Assistance
- Harris Center for Conservation Education
- Antioch New England Institute
- UNH Cooperative Extension
- Towns of the Monadnock Region

Walpole is one of the first 5 towns chosen to participate in the new program. The focus for the Community Conservation Partnership is the promotion of conservation and the protection of our natural and environmental resources.

The Ballam Farm easement was completed with grants and private monies this past year.

The Walpole Conservation Plan, The Natural Resource Inventory, our Wetland Survey and the Comparative Land Values of Natural Resources study are available and all come with maps. Copies can be obtained at cost from the Conservation Commission.

We thank our town officials and office staff for their assistance and cooperation, and we thank our local citizens for their support of the work of the Walpole Conservation Commission.

Marcia Galloway, Chairperson of the Walpole Conservation Commission.

<u>Conservation Fund:</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Beginning Balance			\$52,206.95
1/31/08 Donation (Pvt)	\$1,000.00		
1/31/08 Easement Expense.		\$1,500.00	
1/31/08 Easement Exp (Ballam)		\$25,000.00	
2/5/08 NH Charitable Found.	\$4,817.18		
7/14/08 Change of Use	\$14,500.00		
12/31/08 Total Interest	\$632.54		\$45,656.67

Fund is held by the Town Treasurer as required by RSA 26:5-1