

Walpole Conservation Commission

The Walpole Conservation Commission continues to serve Walpole with a variety of projects related to land conservation. As an advisory board, we depend on partnerships with the town officials and the various boards to do our work. We are grateful for the continued support of these partnerships. We are especially appreciative of the work done by the town office staff in making improvements to our office and meeting space in the Town Hall basement.

We continued to work with individuals and families on plans to protect their land through the use of easements. One of the highlights for the year was to purchase 21 acres adjacent to the Mason Forest along Rt. 12. This property was purchased using funds from the Mason Forest Fund and did not require any taxpayer dollars. It will be used to create public access for recreation and future timber harvests once the timber market improves. We have already started work on a network of multi-use trails here.

We continued to work with several local, regional and state conservation organizations such as the Monadnock Conservancy, The Society for the Protection of NH Forests, The Cold River Advisory Board, Antioch University, SCA (Student Conservation Association) and Steve Roberge, Cheshire County Forester. Representatives from these groups and others attended our monthly meetings. In turn, Conservation Commissioners represented Walpole by attending meetings with some of these same groups.

We were pleased to continue sponsoring guided walks to visit some of the special places in town. These included tours of the oxbow area on the Cabot property adjacent to the Mason Forest, Fall Mt. And Drewsville Gorge on the Cold River. We applaud those that braved the weather on these walks, as they seemed to fall on rainy days that were so common this past summer.

Our local trails received some attention through the efforts of several volunteers working on the Mill Pond Trail with Brian Perry on his Eagle Scouts project. Several other individuals cleaned up debris left from the ice storm of December 2008. The local snowmobile club continues to maintain winter snow machine routes, including reconstruction of significant bridges and brushing of trails. Many of the hiking trails in town would benefit from some additional maintenance. Look for opportunities to volunteer with a new adopt-a-trail program in the coming year.



Walpole Conservation Commission (Continued)

We continue to monitor issues and areas of potential concern to our environment and lands, involving appropriate agencies and boards as needed, using the guidelines set forth in the Walpole Conservation Plan, The Natural Resource Inventory, The Wetland Survey and the Comparative Land Values of Natural Resources. These include pertinent maps and are available at cost from the Conservation Commission. Our charge is to advise and assist the residents of Walpole with the presentation of our natural resources and lands and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve you.

Marcia Galloway & Lew Shelley,
Co-Chairs
Walpole Conservation Commission



**Reservoir Loop
Walpole, New Hampshire**