

Holderness Conservation Commission—Annual Report 2006

Members of the Commission monitor all town properties and easements on a regular basis, particularly those properties and easements related to LCIP. LCIP stands for Land Conservation Investment Program. Those duties involve monitoring one easement, the Crawford easement, and two properties, the Pilote Forest and the Pemi Riverside Park. The latter two properties were purchased with LCIP funds. LCIP has now been transformed into the Land Conservation and Heritage Investment Program. This year the Chair and Tom Stepp, a Holderness resident, walked the boundary lines of the Pilote Forest. The Commission appreciates Tom's assistance on this matter. We also monitor the Town Forest, the Chabot and the Swainey Brook Easements. We are hoping to hold a public education meeting about easement, particularly those adjacent to wetlands. We are also planning to hold a public meeting on vernal pools. We strongly encourage the Town and its officials to support our efforts by contributing annually to the Town's Conservation Fund.

The Commission continues to be strongly interested in the protection of the local environment, particularly with respect to water (streams, lakes and wetlands). It is important to protect the local watersheds and the streams that flow out of those watersheds into Squam Lake and the Pemigewasset River. The Commission has worked closely with the Planning Board, the Squam Lakes Association and the Squam Lakes Conservation Society on those matters. It is also very important for the Town of Holderness to protect the gravel-pack aquifers associated with the intervale area and the Town should strongly adhere to existing planning and zoning regulations with respect to actions in the that area. In the University's new master plan, the University hopes to purchase properties on North and South River Streets. The town should work closely with the University to expand our existing park on South River Street and to work with the University in returning the bank-side areas to a natural riparian habitat.

The Commission continues to work on developing a trail system that would include access to the Pilote Property from the Central School via the Town Forest. Such a trail would allow Central School students to do natural history studies and also community service work. We continue to meet with both school officials and local residents about the project. Raw materials have been procured by Commissioner Pettitt for the trail and we are hoping to begin work on trail improvement in the spring of 2007. We are also continuing work on the development of a formal town-wide system of trails that would allow users to hike from the town center to Plymouth. We are actively seeking out local residents to work with us on this project.

The Commission continues to deal on a regular basis with items related to docks, wetlands permits, etc. We work closely with the Town Compliance Officer, Richard Mardin, on those matters. We've continued with our plan of visiting all the prime wetlands in the Town of Holderness. We continue to spend a large amount of time dealing with issues associated with the gravel pits and prime wetlands. We met with the Pemi Fish Game Club board and have also toured the NH Fish and Game Facility on Perch Pond Road. Because we are dealing with increasingly complex issues with respect to wetlands and encroachment on wetlands, we hope that the town will hold another joint meeting in the spring of 2007 with the Conservation Commission, the Selectboard, the Planning Board, the ZBA, and the Compliance Officer to continue to examine present processes and procedures and to determine whether changes

are needed to those. One Commissioner, Anne Packard, has been designated to watch over “permits to cut” in the town.

The Commission sponsored/cosponsored one regional meeting this past year in conjunction with PSU’s Center for the Environment. The meeting was aimed at the Pemi-Baker Watershed commissions and much of the discussion revolved around uses of the Current Use Penalty tax and the question of conservation easement.

Commissioners continue to work on their own understanding of environmental matters through attendance at workshops and meetings. The Chair attended the Annual Meeting of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions and also the Annual Watershed Conference. Reggie Pettitt and other Holderness school faculty have had their students work on projects involving local ecosystems, one in particular that is adjacent to the Pemi Riverside Park.

Commissioner Reggie Pettitt resigned in December. The Commission thanks Reggie for his work as a member of the Commission. Barbara Currier continues to be a faithful attendee to our meetings as the representative from the Selectboard. The Selectboard has appointed a new member, Janet Cocchiaro, and an alternate, Nancy McDonald.

The Commission will be meeting the 3rd Thursday at 19:00 at the town hall except for the summer months. Special meetings and field inspections are sometimes held in between regular meetings. If you have an interest in the work of the Commission or would like to become a member of the Commission, please contact the Town Administrator at the Town Office. All proceedings of the Commission are open to the public and we welcome all comments and any offers of assistance. The Commission maintains a website at: <http://www.holdernessconservationcommission.org>

Submitted by:

Janet Cocchiaro
Jacque Jewell
Nancy McDonald (Alternate)
Anne Packard
Reggie Pettitt (Through December)
Larry Spencer, Chairman
Barbara Currier, Selectboard Representative

CURRENT USE REPORT – 2006

Total Acres Enrolled in Current Use – 2006.....	16.39
Total Acres Removed from Current Use – 2006.....	0
Total Land Use Change Penalty – 2006.....	0
TOTAL PARCELS	224
TOTAL ACRES.....	11,233
TOTAL VALUE.....	\$1,080,920