

## **HOLDERNESS CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

It is the mission of the Holderness Conservation Commission to care for the conservation properties owned by the Town of Holderness, to be strong advocates for good conservation practices in the Town, to protect the Town's wetlands from being degraded, to be the local agent for wetland permits and other matters controlled by the NH Department of Environmental Services (NH-DES), and to educate the residents of the town and region about suitable conservation practices.

Members of the Conservation Commission monitor all Town properties and easements on a regular basis, particularly those properties and easements purchased with state funds from LCIP (Land Conservation Investment Program) or the more recent LCHIP (Land Conservation and Heritage Investment Program). Those duties involve monitoring one easement, the Crawford easement, and two properties, the Pilote Forest (105 acres) and the Pemi Riverside Park (5 acres). The Conservation Commission also monitors the Town Forest (25 acres), the Chabot and Swainey Brook Easements, and the new town property on White Oak Pond (8 acres). In addition, the Conservation Commission reviews all intents to cut filed with the town to determine if the cut areas are near wetlands.

Commissioners continue to advance their own understanding of environmental matters through attendance at workshops and meetings. Shelagh Connelly, Anne Packard and Betsy Whitmore attended the annual meeting of the NH Association of Conservation Commissions and shared information about the sessions they attended. In 2009 the Conservation Commission worked to update the annual monitoring and reporting process for the LCHIP properties. The Commission also has worked on organizing current materials in the files and maintaining older files consistent with archival practices.

In August, Commission Chair Larry Spencer, Marty Riehs and five student workers from Plymouth State University constructed a series of small bridges across some wet portions of the trail that cross the Pilote Forest property. There are still more bridges that need to be constructed in the future and it is planned to have some trail maintenance projects as part of the 250th town birthday celebration in 2011. Many thanks to the Pilote family who allowed the work crew access to the upper portions of the trail across their property. The Commission will also be working with a member of the Pilote family to design and construct signage at the Pilote Forest trailhead on Beede Road. Small maps were put up on the sign boards located adjacent to the parking areas on the town properties. With the Squam Lakes Conservation Society, the Conservation Commission co-sponsored the Wildlife Event at the Holderness Central School in November.

The Commission would like to reaffirm its policy concerning motorized vehicles on town held conservation properties: It is the general policy of the Holderness Conservation Commission to prohibit the use of motorized transport on town held conservation properties year round. Special exceptions to this policy are automatically granted for emergencies where police or fire personnel need access through or to the properties or for Commission sanctioned trail maintenance or forestry activities.

Shelagh Connelly and Betsy Whitmore were made full Commission members this year and we welcome Chris Buckley as a new alternate member.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Cocchiaro  
Shelagh Connelly  
Barbara Currier S.L.  
Jacquelyn Jewell  
Anne Packard

Larry Spencer, Chrm  
Betsy Whitmore