

Report of the Conservation Commission

Members of the Fremont Conservation Commission worked on local conservation projects, acted to advise local Boards on matters of conservation, made site visits and worked with regional and State organizations to promote and protect the natural resources of our community. The Commission's efforts toward fulfilling its mission throughout the year are summarized below.

Throughout the year, the Conservation Commission acted in an advisory capacity for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment on matters related to wetland habitat protection, water quality protection and aquifer protection. Three projects of particular note this past year were: 1. Acting in concert with the State's Wetland Bureau and the Planning Board concerning conservation easement violations being mitigated on property owned by the United Soccer Club adjacent to Brown Brook; 2. Working with Public Service of New Hampshire in minimizing impact on wetlands in a major pole upgrade being planned and; 3. Working with Beede Spaulding LLC on a conservation easement that will establish a walking trail from the proposed cul-de-sac at the end of Spaulding Road to Beede Hill Road.

The Conservation Commission is pleased to report that its efforts have at last resulted in amending the existing conservation easement on the Glen Oakes Town Forest to include the Oak Ridge Town Forest Lands of Map 4, Lots 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 16. The amended deed was executed and signed in September of this year with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Additionally, the Commission is pleased to report that an additional \$1,000 grant was awarded by the Roy Foundation to put toward the cost of amending the easement deed.

The Commission devoted a portion of several meetings to developing a monthly task (working plan) schedule. An important component of the task schedule is to annually review and make sure the Town remains compliant with the requirements of the grants the Town has received for conservation projects.

In keeping with the Town Forest Management Plan, the middle section of the Glen Oakes Town Forest was selectively harvested to promote forest health and wildlife diversity. The timber harvest occurred in late November and early December.

The Commission sponsored and/or promoted two walks in our town forests this past year. A Snowshoe Hike through the Glen Oakes Town Forest in February and a Fall Foliage Hike in October into the southern portion of the Oak Ridge Town Forest. Additionally, the Commission has been actively planning events for 2014.

The Commission is sad to have to report that several trail posts and signs were vandalized during the course of the year. In addition, both the Oak Ridge Town Forest and Glen Oakes Town Forest kiosks were vandalized. Needless to say, replacing the damaged materials is expensive

and time consuming. Police reports were filed reporting the damage, but citizen vigilance concerning this matter would be appreciated.

Learn more about your Town Forests by visiting “The Fremont Town Forest” Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/FremontTownForests>). It contains lots of current information, maps, pictures and video content. Don’t forget to “Like” it.

If protecting and conserving the Town’s natural resources interest you, please consider getting involved. Both the Conservation Commission and Open Space Advisory have openings and your input is welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Knee, Chairman

Military Encampment
250th Anniversary Celebration

Photo courtesy of Leo Danjou



250th Anniversary Stage constructed by the Committee at Peterson / Brookvale Farm
Photo courtesy of Bob Meade