

Report of the Conservation Commission

The Commission authorized perimeter survey of the Oak Ridge Town Forest was completed in the spring of 2010. The property is now a step closer to having a conservation easement placed on it that may be used for matching purposes in pursuit of a future grant. That survey also revealed that a short piece of the existing Ridge Trail and a trail sign were not located on Town Forest property. The section of trail and the sign were relocated to correct the situation later in the year.

In the fall, Open Space Committee Chairman Dennis Howland led the Commission on an exploratory hike of the Northern portion of the Oak Ridge in a continuing assessment of additional trail development in that area.

In the Glen Oakes portion of the Town Forest additional signage was installed. The Kiosk was modified and new trail map information added. A tri-fold brochure was also developed for the Glen Oakes Conservation Area to assist visitors. Over 20 people participated in a fall foliage walk in October.

In a continuing effort to encourage use of our Town Forests the "Hike & Seek" contest was initiated and placed in "The Fremont Newsletter" beginning in November. The questions and rules are also on the Town's website.

A "Taking Action for Wildlife Program" service grant was awarded to Fremont as a result of the application submitted by Member O'Brien with its initial purpose to verify and monitor our wildlife species in town. At our first meeting the service grant facilitators suggested that we could invite surrounding towns to participate in this endeavor, which we did. That decision eventually led to the application & subsequent award of a \$30,000 Collaborative Grant in August to the Towns of Danville, Fremont & Sandown. The purpose of the CTAP Collaborative Grant was primarily to do a Bio-inventory of the wildlife in the three towns, and generate a Wildlife Habitat Chapter for each Town's Master Plan; and implement an outreach program in each town on the protection as well as preservation of wildlife, habitat, wetlands and Riparian areas. The contract for the work associated with this Grant was awarded to West Environmental and the Rockingham Planning Commission.

After some landowner meetings were held the Bio-inventory field activity took place in November & December and meetings are scheduled in late January to present the results. Additional input was provided by the Commission to the 2nd draft of potential Wildlife Habitat Master Plan chapter in December and the final product should be available by March.

Another off shoot to the Wildlife Program service grant was the decision by the Commission to hold a Bio-Blitz in Fremont. The Bio-Blitz has been planned to take place on Saturday May 21st 2011 in the Glen Oakes Town Forest.

The Commission has long been interested in the acquisition of an additional property adjacent to the Glen Oakes land. In the spring of 2010 the landowner decided he was interested in selling the property to the town. We have shared the cost of appraisal & surveying of the property with

the landowner to date. However, additional funds to supplement our current use funding are required. We are pursuing some grant money and have discussed with the Selectmen obtaining some money from the Conservation Bond that was passed in 2005 for this purpose.

The Commission passed a motion to again recommend adoption of the provisions of NH RSA 36-A-4-a, I (b) that would give the Conservation Commission the ability to support projects by giving money to qualified organizations (such as land trusts) without taking a property interest. This Article, once reviewed and approved by the Planning Board, Selectmen and Town Counsel, will be put before the voters as an Article on the 2011 Town Warrant.

In December, members were given a readout of the Exeter River Geomorphic Assessment which provided some recommendations for the implementation of locally led projects to protect the rivers geomorphic integrity.

In addition, the Commission discharged its responsibilities to monitor compliance with environmental laws and Commission-held Easements. The Commission Members participated in site walk inspections, reviewed, deliberated and commented on various projects before the Planning and Zoning Boards.

The Commission appreciates the efforts of Land Use Administrative Assistant Meredith Bolduc in assisting us in achieving our results for the year and keeping continuity and communication between all the Land Use Boards open and flowing.

Please visit the Conservation Commission page on the Fremont Town website for ongoing updates and information relative to minutes, agendas and related activities at www.Fremont.nh.gov.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for the Conservation Commission, or if you would like to participate by filling one of the available positions, please contact the Land Use Office at 895-3200 x 17 or fremontpz@comcast.net.

Respectfully Submitted,

John (Jack) Karcz, Chairman

The Fremont Conservation Commission

John (Jack) Karcz	Chairman
Bill Knee	Member
Janice O'Brien	Member
Patricia deBeer	Member
Leanne Miner	Alternate
Meredith Bolduc	Alternate