

## **REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The tax maps and correspondence to add an additional twenty six (26) wetlands to join Spruce Swamp as Prime Wetlands were submitted to NH DES in November of 2008 and were finally officially accepted by NH DES on March 31, 2009.

The Commission continued to collaborate with Charlie Moreno, our Town Forester, on the Glen Oakes Forest and Wildlife Management Plan throughout the year. The Glen Oakes Forest and Wildlife Management Plan was completed and issued at the end of December 2009.

In the summer a tent and campsite were found in the Glen Oakes property. This is not allowed under the Glen Oakes Conservation Easement. This prompted the Commission to seek to have the Town Forest Ordinance amended by the Selectmen to agree with the terms of the easement. The amended Ordinance was approved by the Selectmen after a public hearing in December 2009.

The remainder of first year funding from the Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) was allocated to amend the existing Fremont Zoning Article IX concerning Wetlands & Watershed Protection District. The Commission worked closely with West Environmental and the Planning Board to more clearly define buffers and setbacks. The amended Article was reviewed and approved by the Selectmen and Town Counsel and will be put before the voters on the 2010 Town Warrant as Article 3.

In January 2009 the Commission also initiated the application to CTAP for an Open Space Plan, which was granted to the Fremont Planning Board in March. The Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) facilitated meetings with representatives from the various land use boards. The results will be presented to the Planning Board in February of 2010.

In March the Commission pursued and received a grant from Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) to create a Natural Resource publication. The Commission began working with Dave Kellum, Project Coordinator for PREP in April. This work resulted in the creation of "A Citizen's Guide to Protecting Fremont's Water Resources" in newspaper format, which was distributed to all Fremont residences in December 2009.

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 submitted Article was reviewed and approved by the Planning Board, Selectmen and Town Counsel and will be put before the voters as Article 16 the 2010 Town Warrant.

The Commission authorized Tom Brouillette to do a perimeter survey of the Oak Ridge Town Forest, which will be completed with the placement of some granite posts in the spring of 2010.

The Conservation Commission had been awarded a PSNH Environmental Community Grant in December 2008 in the amount of \$850.00 to be used for signage and associated posts to mark the forest trails in the Glen Oakes Town Forest. The Commission, with the considerable efforts of Dennis Howland of the Open Space Committee, blazed extensions to create loop backs on two of the trails. Also six double post sign structures were installed on the main Forest Loop Trail. Additional structures and signage will be installed in 2010.

In addition the Commission discharged its responsibilities to monitor compliance with environmental laws and Commission-held easements. In addition they 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 with 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 at [www.Fremont.nh.gov](http://www.Fremont.nh.gov) for ongoing updates and information relative to minutes, agendas and related activities.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,

John (Jack) Karcz, Chairman

The Fremont Conservation Commission

John (Jack) Karcz	Chairman
Bill Knee	Member
Janice O'Brien	Member
Tina Sturdivant	Member / Alternate
Patricia deBeer	Member
Meredith Bolduc	Alternate

*"And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom."*

~ Anais Nin