

Conservation Commission

Annual Report 2022

The Conservation Commission oversees the town's natural resources—including wetlands, waterways, wildlife habitat, field and forest.

Land Stewardship

A hemlock looper caterpillar infestation hit the Fremont Conservation Land, defoliating under- and midstory hemlocks on 24 acres by forester and ConCom member Swift Corwin's survey. Deciduous trees can survive periodic defoliation; conifers cannot. Walk the trail to experience an oddly transparent forest.

In the works: A new trail loop at the end of the one-mile main trail, and a new trail spur to access a trail network on the abutting land with permission and encouragement of the landowning family, Duffy Monahan's, that shared her great-neighbor policy.

Continued thanks to Carl Staley and Jack Ellerkamp for raising funds among Fernald Field neighbors for annual mowing of the field to prevent woody vegetation from taking over. Patches of native willow and wildflowers remain unmown or mown late in summer to benefit pollinators and other insects that are in decline.

For the abutting Wheeler Trail, thanks to the anonymous neighbor who somehow got one of the footbridges on Wallace Brook back on its foundation after it was washed downstream.

Town Wetland and Shoreland Codes

The Commission had its busiest year relating to site visits and written comments to the Zoning and Planning Boards relating to development applications with potential wetland/shoreland impacts.

Conservation Easement Monitoring

The Commission made progress monitoring 20 conservation easement properties in town, an annual task. Two-thirds of the town's conserved lands are privately owned, placed in permanent conservation through a conservation easement deed. To the Town's benefit, some 35 families have chosen to conserve their land and its natural resources as they have known them.

The Year Ahead

Work will continue on the Fremont Conservation Land trails. With assistance from Town Planner Danica Melone and GIS/IT Specialist Fash Farashahi, the ConCom will update the Town's Natural Resources Inventory, mapping natural resources, highlighting their importance, and promoting their protection and wise stewardship.

With the sunseting of the Open Space Committee, the Commission will continue the OSC website created with assistance from OSC member Anne Huberman. The website's wealth of information about natural resources and the townspeople and groups that have conserved them over the decades is at <peterboroughopenspace.org>. Each property on Peterborough's conservation lands map shown here has a compelling story. Visit the website to explore the stories and a lot more relating to Peterborough's natural resources.

Jo Anne Carr
Swift Corwin
John Kerrick, Secretary
Matt Lundsted

Dick McNamara, Alternate
John Patterson, Co-chair
Bob Strong, Alternate
Francie Von Mertens, Co-chair
Robert Wood, Vice Chair
Tyler Ward, Select Board Liaison

Peterborough, NH Conserved Landscape

