

MILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

~ 2011 REPORT ~

Personnel – The Conservation Commission recognized Diane Fitzpatrick in a small ceremony in August of 2011. Diane served on the Conservation Commission for 16 years. Members of the Commission and the wider conservation community presented Diane with a granite bench placed on the Granite Town Rail Trail to honor her efforts. Diane stepped down from the position of Chair in March 2011 and resigned from the Commission in December 2011. Diane has moved her conservation efforts across the country to Seattle, WA. We thank Diane for her years of dedicated service and celebrate her accomplishments.

Land Acquisition 2011 - The Conservation Commission was instrumental in the acquisition of the Map 45, Lot 2 property in September of 2011. The property is a 34 acre, land locked, parcel in the Mile Slip area that abuts 7,000 acres of unfragmented forest which extends into Brookline, Wilton, and Mason. The property is a valuable wildlife habitat and includes a vernal pool as well as a foundation from the Gutterson home site. This property abuts the Sherburne property which was purchased in 2010 adding another integral piece to the Milford Circumferential Greenway.

The Russell Piscataqua Watershed Foundation assisted the Conservation Commission in the purchase. The property sold for \$30,000. The Conservation Commission contributed \$25,000 from the Conservation Land Fund and the Russell Foundation provided a grant of \$5,000. The terms of the grant request that the property have an easement held by a third party. The easement protects the property in perpetuity from development. It does allow for low impact recreation so the Conservation Commission can incorporate a trail.

Trails – The Conservation Land Management Committee continues to maintain the trails on Town lands by reblazing trails, repairing bridges, replacing signs and the ever needed brush clearing. We thank the CLMC, trail stewards, and the many volunteers that help keep our trail system safe and hiker-ready.

Milford Hikes - With miles of well developed trails and more than 1,000 acres of conservation lands, Ttown Forests, and easements available, it is only natural for Milford residents and others to enjoy our natural resources and what better way to experience the outdoors than hiking on our many trails. The Conservation Commission established 4th Saturday Hikes in 2010. The hikes, which are mostly held in Milford but also take advantage of trail systems in our neighboring communities, are led by members of the Conservation Commission. As a result of the strong 2011 response, the Conservation Commission is continuing this program in 2012.

Granite Town Rail Trail - The Rail Trail is one of the most heavily used trails in Milford. It attracts walkers, runners, and bikers. The Milford Rail Trail extends from the vicinity of the Department of Public Works facility on South Street to the Brookline town



line where the trail joins the Brookline Rail Trail. The Rail Trail is home to foot races, training programs for Milford's middle and high school track teams and even training for our National Guard. It is imperative that this trail be maintained and improved. During 2010, the Public Works Department provided necessary help to the Conservation Commission. Thanks to their assistance the Union Street section was cleared, regraded and resurfaced. The Union Street crossing was improved. During 2011, the section from the Route 101 tunnel to Armory Rd was cleared, regraded and resurfaced. The access on the south side of the tunnel was relaid. Crosswalks were painted at the three road crossings. To assist with this effort, the Conservation Commission has actively been seeking financial assistance from the public, foundations, and any group that appreciates this important asset. The Commission has received financial support from generous individuals, the Kaley Foundation, the Granite State Wheelmen, and Centrix bank.



Ghost Train Rail Trail Race - Steve Latour, a rail-trail enthusiast and race organizer from Nashua was once again instrumental in organizing a 15 mile race on the Rail Trail, using the contiguous Milford and Brookline Rail Trails. He added an Ultra race for which 17 runners entered. One runner ran 100 miles in 36 hours equalling 6 roundtrips on the rail trail. More than 70 runners enjoyed the competition and comradery. The Granite Town Rail Trail benefitted through the receipt of more than \$600 in fees that will be used to further enhance the Rail Trail for runners, hikers, and bikers. The interest in this race is expected to continue to grow and the race will be held annually.

Southern NH Trails and Outdoor Expo 2011 - To further spread the word about our outdoor resources the Conservation Commission hosted the 2011 Southern New Hampshire Expo at the Hampshire Hills Dome on April 9, 2011. The extensive effort required to effectively coordinate this event began with planning and development efforts in 2010 and built upon successful expos held in 2006 and 2009. Funds raised from this event will be used to further improve the Granite Town Rail Trail. The expo attracted scores of vendors and more than 1,500 visitors from the region.

Rotch Wildlife Preserve - During 2009, the forest at the Rotch Wildlife Preserve was selectively cut as part of a planned forest management program. The timber harvesting provided the opportunity for the development of a trail system within the Wildlife Preserve with future access located on Ruonala Road. Efforts during 2010 included further development of the future parking area and clearing of the trails. The Conservation Land Management Committee (CLMC), a committee established by the Conservation Commission in 2007 to manage public use in the Ttown Forests and other properties that the Conservation Commission protects, began the extensive effort of defining the trails and providing signage and blazes that will assist future hikers. In 2011 there are improved hiking trails and the development of an interpretive trail system to help us all better understand our natural environment.

The Commission has opening for both full and alternate members. For more information about what your commission is doing or how you can help, see our web site

or call the office at 603-249-0628. A trail map booklet is available for a requested \$1.00 donation at the Conservation Commission Office in Town Hall. Individual trail maps can be picked up free of charge in the lobby of the Community Development/Planning Department or can be printed from our website.

Submitted by:

Audrey Fraizer, Chair

Milford Conservation Commission

CONSERVATION COMMISSION BUDGET - 2011

OPERATING BUDGET

2010 Town Appropriation	\$ 21,935.00	
Salary	(19,000.00)	
Training	(290.00)	staff & members
Printing, Publishing	(56.60)	
NHACC Dues	(460.00)	
Recording fees	0.00	
Travel/mileage reimbursements	0.00	
Contracted Services	0.00	
Office Supplies	(88.52)	
Postage	(12.87)	
Supplies, equipment	0.00	
Supplies, land maintenance	(272.50)	
Books	0.00	
Carry Forward	2,539.30	from previous year
Interest Income	0.00	
Year End Balance OPERATING BUDGET	\$ 4,293.81	

LAND FUND

Balance 2011/01	\$ 30,366.05	
Interest Income	0.00	
Private Contribution	0.00	
Expenses	(28,644.95)	Land Purchase, fees
YE Balance LAND FUND	\$ 1,721.10	

FOREST FUND

Balance 2011/01	\$ 15,357.60	
Timber Income	0.00	
Interest Income	0.00	
Expenses	(75.00)	maintenance, supplies
YE Balance FOREST FUND	\$ 15,282.60	

NEES BEQUEST

Balance 2010/01	\$ 3,087.56	
Interest Income	0.00	
Expenses	0.00	
YE Balance NEES BEQUEST	\$ 3,087.56	

(unaudited)