

# MILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## 2014 Annual Report

The trails committee was active in 2014. The trails on Mile Slip Town Forest were expanded and improved. The rail trail also had improvements. Beavers were a challenge on the rail trail, the Conservation Commission invested in three beaver flow devices to allow beaver habitat without destroying the trail.

We would like to thank Jon Thunberg for his years of service on the trail committee. He stepped down in 2014. He was instrumental in establishing several trails and building bridges. Jon will be missed.

After careful consideration the Conservation Commission harvested a portion of the Tucker Brook Town Forest. We are confident the results will improve the forest with more diversity and wildlife. The funds from the harvest are deposited into the forest fund which is used for improvement and maintenance of the town forests.



As it is stated in our governing RSA 36-A, “*It [conservation commission] shall keep an index of all open space and natural, aesthetic or ecological areas with the city or town, including lands owned by the state or lands owned by the town or city.*” The commission realized a need for a more detailed inventory of the resources at Brox Town Land in response to potential change of use pressures; and so, retained the services of an environmental consulting firm. We will continue to build the index.

One new property was added to the inventory of conservation land in 2014. It is an easement which will allow a trail in an open space subdivision located on Melendy Road. Once the trail is established, it will add a piece to a connection between the Hitchiner Town Forest and the Granite Town Rail Trail.

The Conservation Commission participated in several outreach events throughout the year including the Pumpkin Festival, Milford Middle School Health Fair, Fall Family Festival and the Souhegan Valley Chamber of Commerce Expo. We continue to host our monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Hike series bringing the public to our conservation lands. For the sixth year we held the Ghost Train trail race which drew over 250 people to Milford.

As always, the commission continues to promote the conservation, protection and sound management of Milford's natural resources for current and future generations. We strive to balance the community's immediate needs and desires with responsible long-term use and protection of our natural resources. As appointed stewards, we educate and encourage the public to make wise decisions about these resources.

Respectfully submitted,  
Audrey Fraizer, Chair  
Milford Conservation Commission