

MILFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2015 Annual Report

A Natural Resources Inventory of the town-owned “Brox” property was published in the spring of 2015 and presented by Kevin J Ryan, Ph.D., Wildlife Ecologist of FB Environmental Associates in the autumn of 2015. Recommendations of the study include

- 1) Wetlands: have the wetlands designated as prime wetlands giving them 100’ buffers and any development should follow Low Impact Development (LID) practices;
- 2) Wildlife: study state endangered and threatened species including the Eastern Hognose Snake, Blanding’s and Spotted Turtles, Vernal Pool Amphibians, Bank Swallows, and New England Cottontail; and
- 3) Development: reduce the potential effects to development-sensitive species by concentrating development in existing open sand pit and areas immediately south and east of it and find a champion to permanently conserve the Brox property.



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 is continuing to update the NRI of the town.



The trails committee was active in 2014. The trails on Mile Slip Town Forest continued to be expanded and improved. Eagle Scouts were instrumental in constructing a new mountain bike trail at Mile Slip and a new orienteering course is underway.

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

The Conservation 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