

# Milford Conservation Commission



Audrey Fraizer

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# Why Conservation Commission

- A commission is the only local board specifically charged to protect the natural resources of the municipality.
- Advise the planning board, selectmen, and other local bodies on the protection, development or better utilization of all areas, including lands owned by the state or lands owned by a town.

# RSA 36-A

Proper Utilization and Protection of the Natural Resources and Protection of Watershed Resources of town.

# What Must a Conservation Commission Do?

1. “....conduct researches into its local Land and Water Areas...”
  - ✓ This charge is integral to virtually every activity of the commission, since one can hardly make a recommendation on the proper use or protection of natural resources without knowing what those resources are.

# Natural Resources Inventory

- A natural resources inventory (NRI) identifies and describes natural resources in a given locale.
- Natural resources can be defined as critical resources supplied by nature that are irreplaceable or very expensive to replace if used up or destroyed.
- Examples of natural resources are soils, wetlands, other habitats, water, plants, and wildlife.

# Why an NRI

- Natural resources are a vital part of New Hampshire's cultural, economic, and community structure.
- The future of the natural resource base is largely dependent on land use decisions made at the local level.

# Why an NRI

- Communities frequently need to make decisions affecting natural resources, but very often don't have adequate data available to back those decisions.
- Identifying and describing natural resources in a local setting, a natural resources inventory provides communities with a strong foundation for more informed decision-making.

# Brox – Purpose of NRI

- Identify area sensitive to future development or land changes.
- Identify priority areas for conservation.
- Recommendations for maintaining its ecological integrity.

# Brox NRI – Landforms, Geology and Soils

- Small undulating hills and depressions.
- Glacial Sediments.
- Kinckley loamy sand.
- 2005 study Community Lands contain up to 1.17 million cubic yards of loose fine to course sand good for materials used by NHDOT.

# Brox NRI - Terrestrial

- Forest type meets the NH Wildlife Action Plan definition of an Appalachian Oak-Pine Forest based on plant species and relatively dry soils – limited in NH, covering less than 10%
- Hemlock-Hardwood-Pine forest covers almost 50% of NH

# Brox NRI – Wetlands

- Vast Wetland Complex
- Numerous and Diverse
- Vernal Pools
- Peatland Complex
- Prime Wetlands criteria (town wide)
- Several rare species are dependent upon wetlands.

# Brox NRI– Rare, Threatened, Endangered (noteable) Wildlife Species

- Eastern Hognose Snake (State Endangered)
- Blanding's Turtle (State Endangered)
- Spotted Turtle (State Threatened)
- Pool Breeding Amphibians
- American Beaver
- Bank Swallow (State Species of Special Concern)
- New England Cottontail (State Endangered)

# Brox NRI - Recommendations

1. Designate Prime Wetlands – more thorough assessment throughout town.
2. Low Impact Development

# Brox NRI - Recommendations

## 3. Wildlife

- Wildlife Survey for Eastern Hognose Snake
- Study Blanding Turtles
- Vernal Pool Study
- Beaver Mitigation
- Bank Swallows
- New England Cottontail

# Brox NRI - Recommendations

4. Non-Native Invasive Plants
5. Development and Conservation
  - Keep Development within existing open sand pit and immediately south and east of it.
  - Put undeveloped land in conservation easement (openspace).
  - Facilitate permanent conservation – sell portion of property to conservation group.

# Brox NRI - Result

The Brox property is a mosaic of unique natural habitats.

“The whole is other than the sum of its parts.”

Koffka