

PROTECTING OUR WATER RESOURCES

Protecting water resources begins with each individual landowner. Simple measures can go a long way in protecting the quality of our surface and groundwater. Individuals often feel that their actions do not matter, however this is clearly not the case when it comes to protecting water resources. Most pollution of surface and groundwater comes from runoff resulting from precipitation or snowmelt. Water is a great dissolving agent. It also is a mover of pollutants.

Currently, many Candia residents rely on groundwater for drinking and other uses. Our neighbors downstream, who rely on the Lamprey River for their drinking source, have a vested interest in protecting the river's water quality. Candia is not only located at the headwaters of the Lamprey River, our lands also are part of the Exeter, Suncook, and Massabesic watersheds. This is where being a good neighbor to those downstream is critically important. We may be tempted to not care about the water quality in these watersheds since we do not currently rely upon this resource as a public water supply. However, our action to protect sensitive areas along streams and rivers, whether through land protection or individual stewardship, not only impacts our drinking water here in Candia but also affects the quality of the water on which our downstream neighbors rely.

The Candia Conservation Commission with the help and cooperation of local land trusts, generous donors, and local, state and national funding sources has permanently protected approximately 450 acres of land. All of these acres help filter and clean water as it runs through their respective watersheds. (Candia's overall area is approximately 19,400 acres.) The population in southern New Hampshire continues to grow, so it behooves us to protect our land and water resources for future generations.



A North Branch tributary

How can you help make a difference? Take special care to dispose of oil, paints, cleaning products, and other hazardous materials safely. Question the use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides in your yard just to get a greener and more uniform lawn; these chemicals are detrimental to our drinking water and our health. Maintain vegetated buffers between your yard and lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams to reduce runoff directly entering these water bodies. Also, make sure your septic system

is maintained on a regular basis. Dilution is not a solution! Will you help be part of the solution?

KINNICUM POND WALK



Community walk at Kinnicum

On October 14, community members of all ages joined the Candia Conservation Commission on a hike into a rare bog habitat that surrounds Kinnicum Pond. After parking on Flint Road, near where it intersects with Libbe Road, the group, led by experienced guide Dick Weeks, trekked over rocky trails and mossy logs to reach the remote opening of Kinnicum Pond. Delightful discoveries included reddish pitcher plants and a huge old oak tree used as a home by a porcupine. Despite starting the hike in drizzly weather conditions, the entourage emerged into clearer and brighter skies – feeling the hike had been a huge success!

A Note From The Chair...

Your Conservation Commission has been busy this year. We've revisited and redefined our goals and objectives to provide a clearer direction for our efforts. Now we are working toward those goals.

As you might assume, our primary goal is to protect some of Candia's natural resources. With the Natural Resources Inventory and Open Space Plan as our guides, we have been busy working with some landowners who have approached us about protecting their land. To that end we have completed two conservation easements, which connect wildlife habitat leading from the large undeveloped section along the Deerfield town line into an undeveloped area along Island Road. This, in turn, leads to the important corridor along the North Branch River that flows from Bear Brook State Park into Raymond and beyond.

Other landowners, whose properties lie within some important corridors, have approached us for help in protecting their land. We are doing our best to keep up with demand, but our personal time and resources are limited. We encourage landowners to connect with one of the land trusts in the area, which can help them define objectives for their land and wade through the details of protecting it.

(Continued on next page...)

A Note From The Chair, continued...

Those landowners often approach the Commission for financial help in the process. The Commission has been fortunate that Candia voters provided us with a fund dedicated to this effort. The economy has worked in our favor as well. We work hard to leverage the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) dollars that supply the Conservation Fund with grant monies so we don't deplete the Fund too fast.

However, the recent reduction of our portion of the LUCT, has diminished the speed at which the fund is replenished. We still have a workable balance left, but at some point in the next year or two the Town will need to revisit its decision about whether/how to support this fund. I encourage Candia voters to take note of our activities, join us on our outings or attend our meetings so you can make a well-informed decision when that time comes.

Thank you for your support.

~ Betsy Kruse

AMPHIBIAN CROSSING SIGNS

One of the Commission's objectives is to create and post "amphibian crossing" signs along sections of town roads with heavy amphibian "traffic" during the spring and early summer. Typically these areas lie near wetlands. You may have noticed a number of frogs, toads, or salamanders on the roads after a warm spring rain. Often the sheer number of amphibians during these times makes it very difficult to avoid hitting them while driving. Or maybe you've noticed turtles (a type of reptile) crossing in the early summer. Unfortunately, from a distance they often look like a rock or clump of leaves until drivers get too close to avoid them.

These animals are heading toward their breeding sites and usually will return across the road when they have accomplished their mission. Baby turtles will follow the same route in mid to late summer, going to the area from which their mothers came. If drivers are aware of the probability of encountering them, they can slow down to avoid hitting them.



One of the toads you may see crossing the road

If you see a turtle crossing the road, check first to see

if it is a snapping turtle! If not, you can safely carry it across the road **IN THE DIRECTION IT IS TRAVELING**. A snapper can be coaxed onto a car mat and dragged across the road.

Turtles can live many years. They and frogs will travel the same routes every year to and from their breeding grounds, so it helps to know where they cross roads when the season comes.

HEMLOCK DRIVE TOWN FOREST WALK



Charlie Moreno explains management of Hemlock Drive Town Forest

On June 28, 2012, Forester Charlie Moreno led a group through the Hemlock Drive Town Forest to discuss the recent logging operation contracted by the Conservation Commission. Charlie had marked the trees to be felled. On the walk Charlie explained the rationale for the specific logging decisions, pointed out how certain areas will enhance wildlife habitat and noted how the forest will benefit from the work done there.

Proceeds from the logging operation went into the Forest Management Fund, which will provide for future projects in the Town's forests. Some of these projects include creating Management Plans for other Town forests and creating/enhancing trails for public use. The Fund is self-sustaining and allows the Commission to demonstrate Best Management Practices in supervising our town forests.

Although we are not required to do so, the Commission paid to the Town the amount that would have been levied as Timber Tax from the proceeds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Conservation Commission holds monthly meetings on the 3rd Tuesday at 7pm in the Town Office Building. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Visit our web site to confirm meeting times and dates and for more information. Please help us keep track of the wildlife you see by filling out wildlife sighting reports on our web site. Thank you for your support.

E-mail: info@candiaconservationcommission.org

Web: www.candiaconservationcommission.org