



**NHACC: Working Together to  
Protect Natural Resources**

# How to Participate Today

- Open and close your Panel
- Submit text questions
- Q&A addressed at the end of today's session

The screenshot displays the GoToWebinar interface with two panels highlighted by red boxes and arrows. The top panel, titled 'Audio', is highlighted by a red box and has two red arrows pointing to its left-side icons: a right-pointing arrow and a hand icon. The 'Audio' panel includes a menu bar with 'File', 'View', and 'Help', a 'Audio Mode' section with radio buttons for 'Use Telephone' and 'Use Mic & Speakers' (the latter is selected), a 'MUTED' status indicator with a speaker icon and a volume level bar, and an 'Audio Setup' link. The bottom panel, titled 'Questions', is highlighted by a red box and contains a large text input area with a placeholder '[Enter a question for staff]' and a 'Send' button. At the bottom of the interface, there is a promotional banner for 'Start Holding your Own Web Events with GoToWebinar' with the Webinar ID: 977-124-241 and the GoToWebinar logo.



# Agenda

- What is NHACC and What do we do
- RSA 36-A Enabling Legislation
- What is the Conservation Commission's Role
- Examples of Unofficial bodies with similar purpose
- Activities that Commissions can help coordinate
- Potential Partnership Opportunities for Commissions
- Why Partnerships are Beneficial
- Funding for Commissions
- How to get a Partnership Started
- Resources



# The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

## Nonprofit since 1970

NH has 217 conservation commissions

### NHACC Mission:

To foster conservation and appropriate use of New Hampshire's natural resources by providing assistance to conservation commissions, facilitating communication and cooperation among commissions, and helping to create a climate in which commissions can be successful.



# What Does NHACC Do?



- Calendar
- About NHACC
- The Basics
- Resources
- News
- Commissions in NH
- Contact Us
- Members
- Support NHACC
- Home



NRCS

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## NHACC New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions



### What Do Conservation Commissions Do?

### ...Teach Children About the Natural World.

### WHAT DOES NHACC Do?

NHACC is a nonprofit conservation organization that provides education and assistance to New Hampshire's local conservation commissions.

[Donate to NHACC](#)

### WHAT DO Conservation Commissions do?

Conservation commissions are local conservation volunteers who work to study and protect natural resources.

Conservation commissions are very active in New Hampshire!

[Click here to read more!](#)

### HOW You Can Help.

Volunteer.  
Invest In Your Local Community.  
Consider Land Conservation.  
And Above All - VOTE!

[Click here](#) to read about the many ways that you can help conservation in New Hampshire.





# New Hampshire RSA 36-A

- Establishes Conservation Commissions
- Offers Direction to Commissions, but also allows for a broad range of activities
- This Approach Gives Great Latitude in how a Conservation Commission Achieves its Activities & Projects



# What is the Purpose of a Conservation Commission?

- Commission is the only local body charged with protecting natural resources
- Only local board authorized to “intervene” on Wetlands Applications
- Commission is Advisory

# What MUST A Commission do?

- MUST be Advisory  
NOT Regulatory
- Conduct researches into its local land and water areas
- Maintain an Index of Open Space & Natural Resources
- Keep Accurate Records of Meetings & Actions





# What MAY Commissions Do?

- Make Recommendations on matters concerning local natural resources
- May receive gifts of money and/or property
- May acquire land on behalf of a municipality
- May accept donations of land and CE's
- May advertise, prepare, print books, maps, pamphlets to promote work





## NH RSA 36-A:2

**36-A:2 Conservation Commission.** – A city or town which accepts the provisions of this chapter may establish a conservation commission, hereinafter called the commission, for the **proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources** of said city or town. Such commission shall conduct researches into its local land and water areas and shall seek **to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes**, and may advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its work....



## **unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes**

- Lake Associations
- Volunteer Trail Organizations
- Land Trusts
- Garden Clubs and Historical Societies
- Friends of Open Space (“Pisgah”, “the Gorge”, etc.)
- Environmental Education Centers
- Public Schools and colleges environmental programs and clubs



## Activities that Conservation Commission can help coordinate

- Water quality testing
- Trail development and maintenance
- Land protection
- School programs
- Public education and outreach
- Wetlands protection with town, lake association Wetlands Bureau, etc.





# Water Quality Testing







# Protecting Water Quality







# Pond Clean up







After...





# Potential partnership opportunities for commissions

- Trail building and maintenance—adopt a trail program and sponsor hikes
- Water quality testing—support with money and volunteers
- Land Protection—partnership with local land trusts protecting special places
- Public Education Programs -working with local schools





# Working with Land Trusts



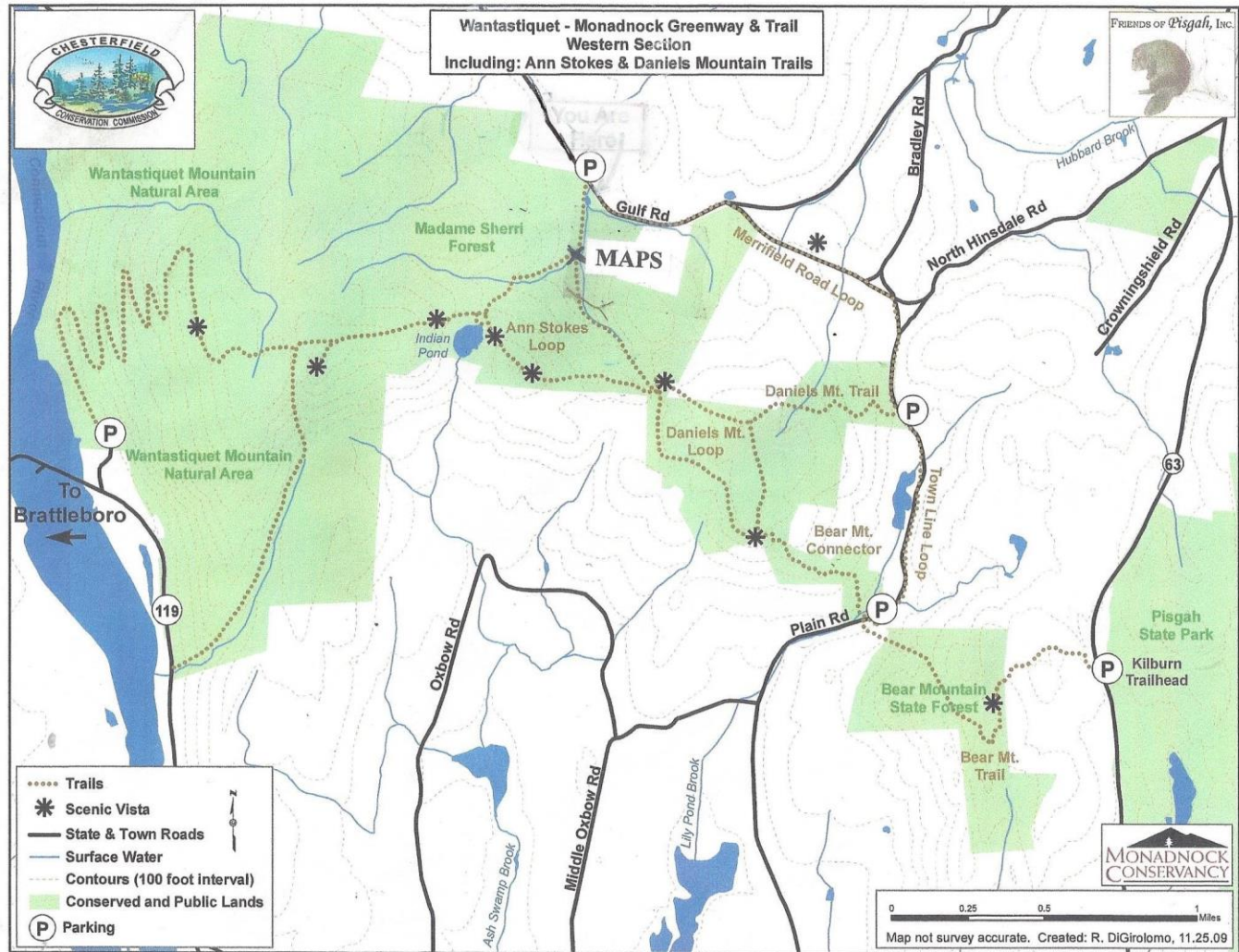


# Managing Conservation Land, Trails, & Easements:

- RSA 36-A:4 Specifies that any interest in land acquired in the name of the municipality by the conservation commission be managed by the commission.
- Establish a Town Forest



# Trail Maintenance







# Trail Maintenance



## Adopt-A-Trail Program 2013

The trails listed below need "adopters", someone who will walk them a few times a year to do routine maintenance, and also report back any major problems. "Routine maintenance" would include brush clearing, minor water diversion, sign replacement, littering, etc. "Major problems" would include those requiring chainsaw work, bridge replacement, major water or trail rerouting, etc.

### 1. Friesam Town Forest:

- Ancient Oaks Trail
- Cemetery Loop
- Doug Sergeant Trail
- Audrey's Meander (requires work)
- The Ski Trail (requires work)

### 2. Vicinity of Madame Sherri's:

- Ann Stokes Loop
- Daniels Mt. Loop
- Mine Ledge Trail
- Mt. Wantastiquet Trail

3. On the Keene Connector: Trail work in this section requires some care as portions of the trail are quite remote. Please call for further discussion.

4. Please call if you want to work on the Bear Mt. Trail or the Bear Mt. Connector, both trails being in Hinsdale.



We would like at least a two year commitment. For more information or to sign up for a trail contact Tom Duston at 256-6082. Leave a message with your name and email address.

Thank you,

Chesterfield Conservation Commission



# Partnerships with Schools

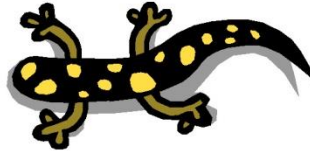
The Dover Commission worked with the local elementary school to teach the scientific method







# ! SPLISH SPLASH!



## Vernal Pool Presentation and Visit

Hosted by the Washington Conservation Commission

A vernal pool is a temporary pool of water that provides a home for many animals such as frogs, turtles and salamanders. This habitat is unique because these pools only fill with water in the spring so fish cannot survive here, making it a safe place for animals to breed where they are safe from predation.

Come learn about this unique habitat that many frogs, salamanders, turtles and insects call home. There will be a short presentation at WES on Friday afternoon where we will learn about these special pools. Saturday we will spend some time exploring a pool right here in Washington. You will get wet!

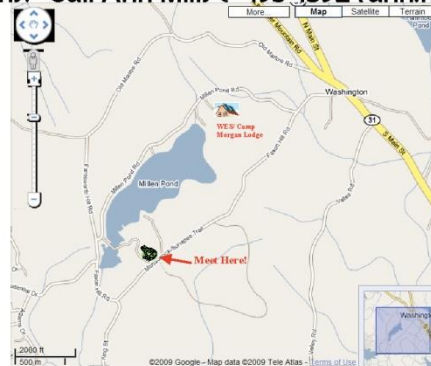
**WHEN:** Assembly at WES Friday, April 23rd

Pool visit Saturday, April 24th

**WHERE:** Intersection of Faxon Hill Rd and Old Haying Rd

\*\* Bring your boots (waterproof if possible), a net and a bucket (some will be available)

Questions? Call Arin Mills @ 495-1392 (arin.mills@gsinet.net)



### Want more info?

\* [http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/Nongame/reptiles\\_amphibians.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/Nongame/reptiles_amphibians.htm)

\* <http://www.vernalpool.org/>









# Why partnerships are beneficial to Commissions

- Helps to find more like-minded people **organized for a similar purpose**
- Increase public support for project funding or town vote to support conservation
- Develop potential new commission members
- Provides numerous opportunities for commission members expertise and interest
- Creates efficiencies by joining forces and sharing the workload



# Benefits of Partnerships: Share the work load







# Make Headlines

## Town notes

### Library offers presentation, annual plant sale

**BELLOWS FALLS** — The Rockingham Free Public Library and the WNESU Early Education Center will sponsor the presentation "Little Lit: Math and Science," a free, fun evening with books, toys and early math and science literacy, Saturday, May 31, at 6 p.m. in the WNESU building located at Cherry Hill. Families with children aged birth through five are welcome to take part in this free program. Each family will receive free books, toys and activities to help children develop early math and science literacy skills.

■ The Friends of the Rockingham Library will hold its annual plant sale Saturday, May 31, from 8 a.m. to noon.

Houseplants, landscaping plants and shrubs, bulbs, perennials, annuals, vegetable starts, herbs, ground covers, trees and ornamental grasses will all sold

## NEWLY MAPPED



A new information kiosk has been installed at Chesterfield Gorge that includes maps detailing the gorge and other recreation options in Chesterfield. Several groups were behind the effort, including the Chesterfield Conservation Commission, Friends of the Chesterfield Gorge, the Monadnock Conservancy, Southwest Region Planning Commission and the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership. Funding assistance also came from a trail grant from the partnership with the support of the N.H. Division of Parks and Recreation.

MICHAEL MOORE / Staff Photographer



# Increase Support for Funding

- Partnerships often Increase public support for project funding or town vote to support conservation
  - Town budget and special warrant articles
  - \$'s from private foundations
  - \$'s from gov't sources (LCHIP, NRCS, Mitigation Fund, Moose Plates, etc.)





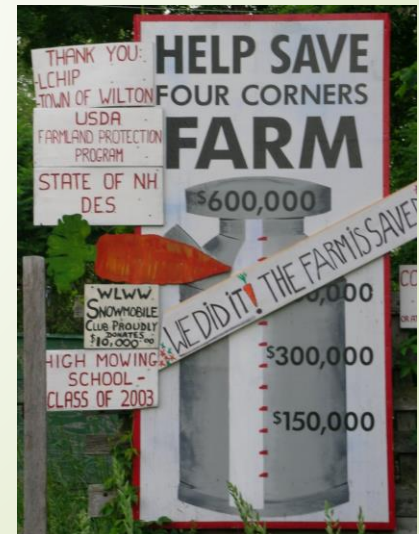
Wilton CC worked with the Temple-Wilton Community Farm and received an LCHIP Grant





# Municipal Conservation Funding Sources

Land use change tax  
Line Item in Town Budget  
Appropriation for Specific Project  
Town Forest Income  
Timber Tax Income  
Town Surplus Funds  
Capitol Reserve Funds  
Bonds







# Wantastiquet – Monadnock Trail Connector Receives LCHIP Funds





## Benefits Include: potential new commission members

- Similar organizations often have individuals with demonstrated interest, expertise, and/or experience in conservation, environmental protection, or relevant aspects of land-use planning
- Evaluate the commission's needs e.g., legal, botanical, soils, wildlife, hydrology.
- Advertise the commission's needs to the public - Urge qualified people to apply





# Volunteers can become Commission Members



**The Chesterfield Conservation  
Commission  
is looking for volunteers to help with the  
Chesterfield Natural Resource Inventory.**

**Can you volunteer some time ?**

**We will train you**

**GPS Training Workshop**

**Chesterfield Town Hall**

**Thursday**

**April 16, 2009**

**5:30-7:30 PM**

**Vernal Pool ID Workshop**

**Town Office P.D. Complex**

**Sunday**

**May 3, 2009**

**2:00-5:00 PM**

**For information: Kathy Thatcher 363-4482  
ktthatcher@gmail.com**



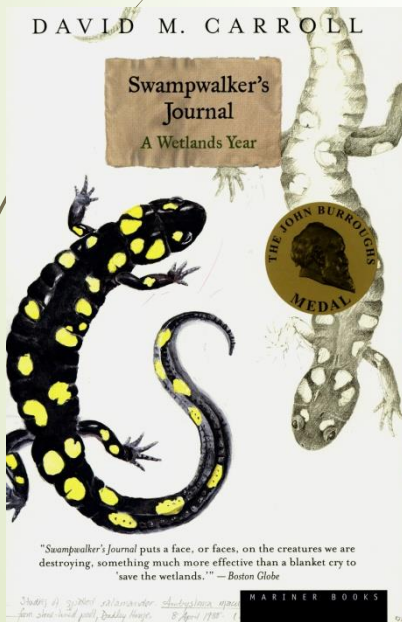
# How to get a partnership started:

- Invite similar organizations to your conservation commission meeting
- Send CC representatives to Lake Association annual meeting
- Coordinate a hike or trail maintenance volunteer day
- Sponsor a public education program
- Host Regional Gatherings
- Invite a Lake or River representative to join the commission



# Outreach and Education

- Conservation commissions have been and continue to be active in educating the public on the value of wetlands and the law and regulations that protect them







# CC teams up with Cheshire Walkers and local land trust







# Conservation Commission Relations with Other Boards

- Cultivate Good Relationships With:
  - Selectman, town administrators,
  - Budget committees
  - Planning boards
  - ZBA
  - Town or city clerk
  - The public
  - Highway Dept.
  - Police



# Working with the Planning Board

- Identify shared responsibilities
- The Natural Resource section of the Master plan
- Find common goals
- Develop a Conservation Plan



# Don't forget to Celebrate





# Celebrate and Thank Volunteers





# Celebrate and Enjoy the Day!







What is your  
conservation commission  
doing?





## More info and Resources:

Land Trust Alliance

NHACC Website

NH Dept. of Environmental Services

NH Lakes Association

NH Project Learning Tree

NRCS and County Forester

Stewardship Network

Society for the Protection of NH Forests

Trailfinder/Trailwrights

UNH Cooperative Extension





**PROD.**

**COMING ATTRACTIONS**

**January 17**

**2018 State Legislative Preview**

**VENUE**

**www.nhmunicipal.or**

**g**



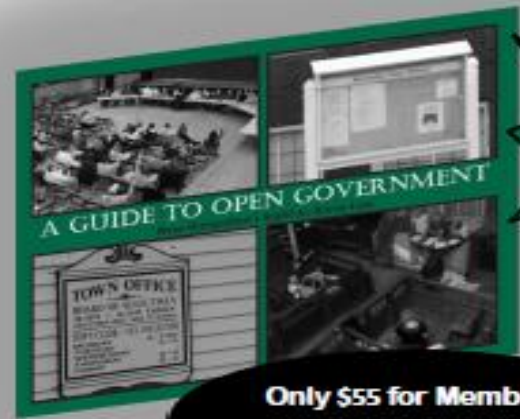






# NHMA RELEASES NEW PUBLICATION ON NEW HAMPSHIRE'S RIGHT-TO KNOW LAW

Check out our new "go-to" resource for public officials when confronted with the numerous legal issues surrounding New Hampshire's Right-to-Know Law.



**Only \$55 for Members  
\$95 for Non-members**

The Right-to-Know Law (RSA Chapter 91-A) affects every aspect of local government in our state. Every board, committee, commission, and sub-committee in every town, city and village district in New Hampshire must comply with this law. As a result, all local officials and employees must understand the law and their responsibilities regarding both public meetings and governmental records.

Join Legal Services Counsel Stephen Buckley, Government Affairs Counsel Cordell Johnston, and Staff Attorney Margaret Byrnes for a full day workshop on Thursday, September 14 on the Right-to-Know Law. They will address some of the most difficult issues under the law, including confidential information, electronic records and communication, procedures for nonpublic sessions, and communications outside a meeting. There will be ample time for questions and answers on all aspects of the law.

Go to NHMA's online store at [www.nhmunicipal.org/shop](http://www.nhmunicipal.org/shop) to order your new book today!



**Learn more about the Right-to-Know Law at a full-day workshop on Thursday, September 14 at NHMA Offices in Concord. \$90 includes workshop, meals and new book! Check our website for registration details.**





*for attending this  
NHMA webinar!*

## Mission Statement

The New Hampshire Municipal Association is a non-profit, non-partisan association working to strengthen New Hampshire cities and towns and their ability to serve the public as a member-funded, member-governed and member-driven association since 1941. We serve as a resource for information, education and legal services. NHMA is a strong, clear voice advocating for New Hampshire municipal interests.

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