

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR, continued

When we talk about conservation, we are striving to protect enough parts of an ecosystem to maintain its health. Because land conservation happens on a parcel-by-parcel basis, we have to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. We encourage the protection of connecting parcels, which fosters healthy ecosystems.

As we continue to face pressures of development in Candia, we need to consider protecting our critical ecosystems. Let us all consider the land around us as valuable natural resources providing more than just *goods* to be consumed, but a truly priceless resource of essential life-giving *services*.

--- Susan Wilderman

GAGNE and RAND EASEMENTS

Two new conservation easements have been completed in Candia this year. The first is on a 9+-acre parcel known as the Gagne property. It sits on the Hooksett/Candia town line and was part of a 500+ acre project, referred to as the Clay Pond Project. It was completed by Bear-Paw Regional Greenways late last year. The whole project lies in an 18,000-acre block of unfragmented land, which includes Bear Brook State Park.

Bear-Paw acquired the Gagne parcel in the process of completing the Clay Pond project. They hold a conservation easement on the property, but transferred ownership of it to Candia early this year. Candia holds a back-up easement on the property to assure that the terms of the easement are upheld. The property abuts the town-owned "High St. Parcels" and provides permanent public access from them to the protected hinterlands of Clay Pond and Bear Brook State Park.

The town purchased the second easement on 27 acres of land owned by Walter and Pat Rand for \$70,000 using conservation fund money. Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELTNH) holds the easement ~ its first in town. Candia holds the backup easement.



From l-r: Selectman Carleton Robie, Walter and Pat Rand, son-in-law Kevin Collimore and David Viale, SELTNH.

The Rand property lies between High St. and Baker Rd., in an unfragmented block of 2500 acres. This block contains town-owned Kinnicum Pond, a natural treasure. Protection of the Rand's 27 acres assures that their land will remain undeveloped, while allowing for forestry and farming. The public can access the property from Baker Rd.

CCC WARRANT ARTICLE

Protecting our water

We have important wetlands in town that sponge up excess rain and snowmelt. They help prevent flooding on the rivers into which they run. They and their feeder streams also filter impurities like nitrates from our groundwater, keeping it safe for drinking. What we do with our water resources in Candia affects not only us, but also the towns downstream from us.



North Branch River and wetlands, New Boston Rd.

Recently there has been increased focus on the watersheds in southeast NH due to pressures from development. The level of nitrates coming down the river into Great Bay has increased, affecting its health. This, in turn, affects the food we get from there. Officials are considering imposing regulations for towns that 1) do not safeguard for their water resources sufficiently and 2) have increased levels of nitrogen in their streams.

One way to minimize our impact on the river is for us to protect our water quality by establishing sufficient buffers around our streams and by designating our "prime" wetlands. Prime wetlands are given an extra level of protection and are determined by town vote, so everyone has a say in the process.

The Conservation Commission would like to hire a wetlands scientist to help us determine which to propose the town designate as Prime. However, we would like voter approval before proceeding. We have submitted a warrant article to see if the voters will support such a study using conservation fund monies. If this article is approved, we expect the resulting Prime Wetlands proposal would go on the March 2012 ballot. If the 2012 proposal were approved, the town would take appropriate action to safeguard our designated wetlands.

More information about this will be available at the deliberative session. Your voice is important. Please come to the deliberative session and then vote on March 8 to let us know whether to proceed with the initial study.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Conservation Commission holds monthly public meetings on the 3rd Tuesday from 7-9 pm in the Town Office Building. 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.

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