

Candia Conservation News: *Helping to Preserve Candia's Natural Resources*

A publication of the Candia Open Space Committee, a sub-committee of the Candia Conservation Commission

Fall 2006

The Candia Open Space Committee (COSC) reports on activities and upcoming events.

SANBORN FARM: PROTECTING ONE OF CANDIA'S LAST WORKING FARMS

The Candia Conservation Commission (CCC) has been encouraged by the State of New Hampshire and organizations such as the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission to protect land that contains prime agricultural soils. In May of 2006, the Town of Candia applied for a grant from the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program to help pay for the cost of permanently protecting a portion of the Sanborn Farm in Candia. Due to the historical importance of the farm as well as the prime agricultural soils it offers, the region will greatly benefit if this portion of the Sanborn Farm is permanently protected now. There are very few prime agricultural soils in Candia and this is the last one that is currently being farmed. This conservation effort has a direct connection to our community goals in supporting agricultural use and protection. The Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program will pay for 45% of the costs involved and Candia will pay for 55% of the cost out of the Conservation Fund over a five-year period. Rockingham County Conservation District has been chosen to hold the conservation easement as they specialize in protecting agricultural soils.

GIRARD PROPERTY CONSERVATION EASEMENT

After reviewing conservation easement proposals by Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, Rockingham County Conservation District and Rockingham Land Trust, Bear-Paw Regional Greenways has been chosen to hold the conservation easement for the 82 acre parcel of land on Deerfield Road known as the Girard Property that the town purchased to permanently protect. The decision to have Bear-Paw hold the easement was based

on a number of factors including cost and the fact that Candia is a Bear-Paw member town along with Deerfield, Epsom, Northwood, Nottingham, Raymond and Strafford. This parcel is part of the natural resource and wildlife habitat corridor connecting Bear Brook and Pawtuckaway State Parks. Bear-Paw's role as the easement holder is to help develop the language of the easement and then conduct annual visits to the property to ensure the terms are being upheld. **A walk on the property has been scheduled for Sunday October 8, 2006 at 1:00pm.** We encourage all Candia residents to join us for a chance to enjoy a walk on the property with fellow residents, meet members of Bear-Paw who will be on hand to answer all questions and help us with the language that will constitute the conditions of the easement.



Stream on Girard Property

NEW TAX INCENTIVE FOR DONATING CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN 2006 AND 2007

On August 3, 2006, Congress approved a tremendous expansion of the federal conservation tax incentive for conservation easement donations. On August 17, the President signed it into law. The new law:

- Raises the deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;
- Allows qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and

- Extends the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for a conservation easement from 5 to 15 years.

Work is being done to make the change permanent. However, the new tax incentive is currently only valid for conservation easements donated in 2006 and 2007. We encourage anyone who is thinking about selling their land to contact the CCC to learn more about how to retain ownership of the property, while helping to permanently protect its natural resources for generations to come.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Under the supervision of the CCC, Forester Charles Moreno has completed the first timber harvest on the North Road town parcel. The revenue generated from the timber sale will be deposited into the forest maintenance fund, which was established by Candia voters at the 2005 Town Meeting to fund the establishment and maintenance of our town forest properties. Forest management practices are now commencing on the Flint Road town parcel and the CCC intends to develop forest management plans for all town-owned property.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

The CCC and COSC have been methodically following the objectives in the Candia Open Space Plan and the Candia Master Plan, with town approval, and we need the town's financial support to continue. We encourage Candia residents to join us at our monthly meetings to learn and participate. The CCC meets on the third Tuesday of each month and the COSC meets on the third Monday of each month. Please visit our web site at www.candiaconservationcommission.org for details on meeting times and dates and for more information. We thank Candia residents for their continued support.