

WILDLIFE CROSSING SIGNS

You may have noticed some yellow signs posted around town late last spring. They were made by students in the Jesse Remington High School Environmental Science class. The Conservation Commission would like to thank them for making twelve wildlife crossing signs.



Wildlife crossing sign on Brown Rd.

As part of their studies the students used the Town's Natural Resource Inventory Maps to determine areas in town where turtles, frogs, salamanders, and other wildlife - species were likely to try crossing the roads. During the late winter months the students designed, built, and painted the signs.

Spring and late summer are especially busy times for various critters to attempt these crossings. The students suggest that if drivers slow down in areas where there are wetlands, streams and ponds, we could decrease the number of amphibian and reptile fatalities. If you stop to help a turtle across the road, please always help it go in the direction it is heading. It is going that way for a reason!

Thank-you Jesse Remington students and their teacher, Susan Wilderman!

BARRY CONSERVATION CAMP

The Conservation Commission is hoping to help send a student to a week-long session at the Barry Conservation Camp in Berlin, NH during the summer of 2014. The cost for a week would run around \$500. The Commission hopes to raise money to help pay for a campership and choose the recipient from contest entries submitted by interested students.

The camp has been in existence for more than 70 years. It is located in the White Mountain National Forest and is

operated by UNH 4-H in conjunction with New Hampshire Fish & Game Department. Campers learn responsible use of firearms safe hunting practices, environmental awareness, conservation principles and an appreciation for our beautiful state.

There are a number of summer sessions from which to choose. Anyone interested in helping to support this effort may send donations to the CCC, designated for the Barry Conservation Camp scholarship.

To learn more about the camp, contact:
Larry Barker, Camp Administrator
629A Main Street, Lancaster, NH 03584
Phone: (603) 788-4961, Email: 4hcamps@unh.edu
or visit them online at www.extension.unh.edu.

DEERFIELD ROAD TOWN FOREST WALK

Over 20 community members, adults and children, enjoyed a walk on the Deerfield Road Town forest in conjunction with the Candia Semiquincentennial celebration this fall. Patrick Mun led the walk, showing the new path and footbridges he had constructed as part of his Eagle Scout project. The path creates a circular route that connects the entrance on Deerfield Road with the end of the original trail. It follows along the southerly edge of the property.

These community walks are a great opportunity to introduce our town lands to residents. Once you walk them, we're sure you'll want to share the experience with others. We welcome those that hike, bike, bird watch, dog walk, horseback ride, snowshoe, ski and hunt to enjoy the trails. For trail maps to download and print visit our town website at www.candiaconservationcommission.org.



Walkers at the Deerfield Road Town Forest Kiosk

A Note From The Chair...

Recently we have heard questions about what the Conservation Commission is all about. There are seven members of the Commission and currently four alternates. Two are professionals in the field of environmental sciences. The rest are trained in various other professions. We are all volunteers interested in conserving a network of open space that protects our town's natural resources. We send a contingent to various workshops every year in order to get training and updates on conservation issues. We try to host a variety of activities in an effort to encourage the public to get out and enjoy our open spaces. We have some wonderful trails and special places in town that we'd like everyone to enjoy.

Additionally, we have recently worked on updating our Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), the Open Space Plan chapter of the Town's Master Plan, updating our goals and objectives, refining our project selection criteria and clarifying the procedures we use in working with the Board of Selectmen on conservation projects.



Conservation Commission members consulting Town maps

The Town of Candia has a conservation fund, to be used only for conservation related activities. The voters have chosen to support this fund with 25% of the Land Use Change Tax, (LUCT) with a \$25,000 cap. Some have argued that when we use this money for land protection, we are in essence using taxpayer money to pay private landowners to protect their land. The LUCT is not levied on the general population. It comes from taking current use lands out of this designation when the land is developed. Ten percent of the market value is paid to the town. Revenue from the LUCT is not predictable from year to year, so it can't be included in the Town budget. However, it does tend to increase when development increases.

We notice repeatedly that maintaining Candia's "rural character" and its healthy environment are high on the priority list of public gatherings held to define our municipal planning goals. They are an integral part of the Town's Master plan. If we are going to implement these goals, we need to "spend some to get some." What better way than to use Land Use Change Tax money? It returns the income from taking open space for development back to preserving other areas of open space. When we do, public access on that land is assured and natural resources will be protected. Everybody wins.

Conservation also avoids degradation of our waters that flow downstream, where officials are talking about further regulation of public waters... Not to mention that open space has been shown to help offset taxes by supplying more to town expenses than it uses.

We are the only body in town dedicated to focusing on our irreplaceable natural resources. We meet monthly in the Town Office Building (see "*For More Information*" below). The beginning of every meeting is reserved for public comment. Feel free to come, ask questions or offer some feedback. Then you can leave if you wish or stay for the rest of the meeting. Everyone is welcome. We hope you will join us.

~ Betsy Kruse

JOIN US FOR A TREE ID AND WILDLIFE WALK ON THE NORTH RD. TOWN FOREST SATURDAY, MARCH 1 AT 1PM. For more information, contact Susan Wilderman at susanwilderman@gmail.com, call her at 483-5033, or check our web site.

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.

E-mail: info@candiaconservationcommission.org

Web: www.candiaconservationcommission.org

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.

Remember to vote on Tuesday, March 11, 2014.