

## 2014 Conservation Commission Report

1. In early 2014, and with substantial Conservation Fund support, the Town completed the Shmid/Banks in fee parcel purchase, netting approximately 117 acres of conservation land. The Conservation Commission will manage the property, with the exception of a gravel pit and envisioned athletic field area.
2. The town received approximately 22 acres of new conservation land on Indian Road through the will of Irene C. Colburn.
3. The next step in growing the Town Forest is underway, using revenue generated through timber sales associated with forest maintenance.
4. The Commission launched a Trails Subcommittee with its initial focus on the Charles and Ethel Eastman Conservation Area Town Forest. Dave Ward is leading the effort.
5. A broad discussion of proposed changes to the town's wetlands buffer ordinance has resulted in the Planning Board forming a wetlands buffer review subcommittee. Substantial Commission involvement is expected in 2015.
6. Owen Payeur has started his Eagle Scout project including trail work, etc. at the Poor Farm Town Forest.
7. A sampling of 2014 meeting guests includes Conservation Officer Delayne Brown, Cooperative Extension Specialist George Hamilton, NH Fish & Game Lands Agent Betsy McNaughten, Piscataquog Land Conservatory Land Protection Specialist Tom Jones, and NH Association of Conservation Commissions Executive Director Nick Coates.
8. Christine Tuck and George Malette resigned from the Commission in 2014, leaving five full members. The perspective and dedication of long time member George Malette will be missed. He leaves a legacy with such projects as the Commission's Natural Resource Inventory, the completion of which he was a staunch advocate.
9. Jeremy Turner details extensive Town Forester activity in his accompanying report.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew C. Fulton (Chair)  
for Stephen Najjar (Vice Chair)  
Wendy Stevens (Secretary)  
Jeff Jackson  
Lisa Purington-Grolljahn

## Weare Town Forester Report 2014

2014 saw a flurry of forest management for the Town. Most management involved improvement and maintenance of forestland assesses. Boundary maintenance on the Brookshire Conservation land and Woods Family Forest involved much work due to missing boundary monuments and abutter encroachments. Due to absent boundary evidence a licensed surveyor was contracted to correct this problem. With this work complete all Town owned lands under management have well maintained boundaries (near 30 miles) that are blazed and painted yellow. A total of 3 road gates were installed on Eastman and Woods Forests in efforts to control unauthorized wheeled vehicles during sensitive seasons. Three timber harvests were conducted during 2014. All were previously prescribed, scheduled and professionally implemented. The smallest harvest involved old-field reclamation on Eastman Conservation lands, here approximately 10 acres of brush and pole pine were cut and chipped to gain long-term management options for permanent open habitat. Bartlett Brook Forests was treated with a thinning and partial harvest that yielded income of \$25k. Late autumn brought the start of the Poor Farm Forest Timbersale that involves thinning and partial harvests. This active timbersale provided a forestry work shop Hosted by Piscataquog Land Conservancy where interested people of the public gleaned the concepts of sustainable forestry. Lastly, the entire Town Forest Land base was enrolled in the Tree Farm program, involving 7 properties totaling 2,400 acres.

The Town Forests are working lands that yield multiple uses. I encourage you, both young and old to explore this natural world and discover how vastly valuable they are.

**Long Live The Forest,**

**Jeremy G. Turner**  
**Weare Town Forester**  
**NH Licensed Forester #318**

