

Conservation Commission Report

2022 has seen the continued use of our community's open spaces for exercise, play, and enjoyment of our natural resources. Belmont's Village Spur Trail continues to be a big attraction, offering a convenient location to get outdoor activity for our residents and neighboring communities in an easy access location. The positive impact that our open spaces have had on the health and welfare of our community is immeasurable.

Membership: We welcome new three new alternate members Georgina Lambert, Richard Moreau and Deborah Woodcock. Former alternate members Pauline Tessier and Susan Irving were appointed as regular members of the Commission to fill seats that became available when members Terry Threlfall and Scott Rolfe resigned their positions. We wish both Terry and Scott the best in all their future endeavors.

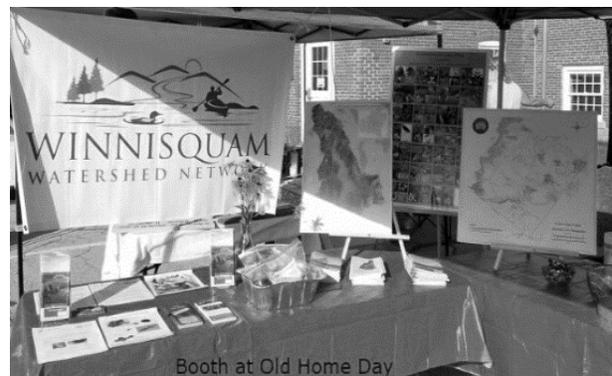
Water: The Commission continues to provide support to the Silver Lake Association as well as the Winnisquam Watershed Network (WWN) to assist with milfoil remediation and Lake Host monitoring. Perhaps the biggest happening of the past year was accomplished by the Winnisquam Watershed Network working with Belmont, the adjacent towns, and the NH Dept. of Environmental Services to declare that Lake Winnisquam is milfoil free! This has involved many years effort using both divers and an herbicide that specifically targets only milfoil. Certainly, vigilance will be required moving forward to make sure that the lake stays this way. The Commission has been making yearly contributions to support the milfoil eradication effort for several years.



Grants: National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Conditional Award Notification- The Commission was notified by the Belknap County Conservation District Chair, Donna Hepp, of financial assistance with management of our Town conservation lands with both invasive species and management planning. The Tioga River and Currier Sanborn properties were both included in the proposal, which has been conditionally awarded.

Open Space: Stewardship of our conservation lands continues through property evaluations and inspections and maintenance. Survey work is required on the Daniel Ladd property which is underway. A stewardship plan has been drafted for the Tioga Marsh/Currier-Sanborn property as part of the National Fish and Wildlife grant. One focus of the plan is the management of glossy buckthorn, an invasive plant, that has become established on the property. The Belmont Village Spur Rail Trail continues to receive heavy use by many, and we have worked with staff to mitigate issues as they arise from the heavy use such as increased signage and dog waste disposal bags.

Outreach: The Commission manned a booth at Old Home Day. Local residents learned about conserved Town properties through posters, maps and discussions. The Commission also promoted private well water testing and offered \$50 vouchers to Belmont residents to test their water. The Winnisquam Watershed Network and the Silver Lake Association representatives answered questions, and provided free brochures and booklets describing how to keep our lakes healthy and clean. A fundraiser of plant sales raised \$231.00 for the Jeff Marden Scholarship fund.



Students: The Commission added student, non-voting members Emilie DeFrancesco and Willam Riley. We hope to encourage the next generation of the conservation minded.

The Jeff Marden Scholarship fund was awarded to Belmont High School student, Stella LaVallee, who is attending the University of Vermont for Environmental Studies.

Belmont's open spaces have never been more vitally important than they are today. Supporting our area's wildlife, personal well-being and preserving a little of our community's rural character for future generations.

We appreciate the community's continued support.

Denise Naiva, Chair

Keith Bennett

Ruth Mooney – Ex Officio

Deborah Woodcock, Alternate

Ed Stephenson, Vice Chair

Jane Jordan

Georgina Lambert, Alternate

Susan Irving

Pauline Tessier

Richard Moreau, Alternate

Student Members

Emilie DeFrancesco

William Riley

Belmont Street Map with Conservation Properties

Hard copy available in Belmont Land Use Office

Andrew Sanborn Farm

