

DERRY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

As stewards of the Town's conservation lands, we maintain the extensive trail systems, and monitor each parcel annually. Many of the properties are under conservation easement with the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, and they provide us with annual detailed reports following their inspections of the various parcels.

As part of the Town's Technical Review Committee, we review all subdivision plans and continue to perform site walks for all development plans that come before us. The DCC also reviews all wetlands permits issued through the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

In 2021 the Derry Conservation Commission returned to in person meetings; utilizing best practices learned during the ongoing Covid 19 Pandemic. The Commission had seen a decline in proposals during 2020; believed to be a ripple effect of the pandemic. 2021 has been a return to normal volume; with multiple major projects under review as we enter the last quarter of 2021.

This year the Commission is involved in multiple networking projects.

Our Invasive Species control project at the Transfer Station was extended for a third round. This project is grant funded and supported by the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD). This project is focused on eradicating Japanese Knotweed infestations around the property. Invested areas included the landscape waste stockpile; along the entrance road, and others. RCCD reps Tracy Degnan and Ariana Spear applied for the grant funding, acquire the pesticide application permit, and perform the spraying. The RCCD has engaged with the commission about hosting future education events in town regarding invasive species. Our commission is focused on continuing education in this space. Will Lowenthal and I gave a presentation to the Derry Garden Club regarding invasive species and passed out identification posters and pamphlets. The commission will be present at Derry Fest and have materials available for residents.

The Commission has agreed to work with UNH Masters student Andrew Butler. Mr. Butler is conducting a study regarding furbearer monitoring methods. The study is supported by NH Fish and Game and is under the advisement of UNH professors. The Commission has granted access for Mr. Butler to place cameras off trail on conservation lands to track animal population and movement patterns. Ecologically, furbearers contribute directly to processes such as prey population regulation and seed dispersal, which in turn influence floral and faunal biodiversity, ecosystem stability. Mr. Butler will return to the commission and share his findings.

The town wide clean up returned in 2021. The cleanup days are now being coordinated with support from Parks and Recreation. The spring clean up was a success and the commission looks forward to continuing to push this initiative.

The Commission will be represented at an upcoming summit of local conservation commissions. Our attendance will increase our awareness of local issues as well as collaborate on best practices.

The Broadview Farm Conservation Area Community Garden plots continue to be extremely popular. Plots are reserved by Derry citizens which enable them to grow healthy, fresh produce during the summer months. Will Lowenthal again has taken on the role of Garden Manager for the 2021 season. This year the Commission voted to hire an independent contractor to till the garden. The feedback from the gardeners was outstanding and the commission will look to repeat this practice again in 2022. Thanks to Will Lowenthal for his stewardship.

Neil Wetherbee was our Council Representative and I want to thank him for his continued guidance as a key member our Commission.

I am honored to be the Chair of the Conservation Commission. Our elected officers are Rick Buzzanga, Vice-Chair, Will Lowenthal, Treasurer and Grace Reisdorf, Secretary. The other regular members are Margaret Ives, Robert Spoerl, and Eileen Chabot, with alternate members Mariel Capulli, Justin Mitchell, and Robert Boonstra.

Ruth Robinson our recording clerk chose to fully retire in 2021. We thank her for her years of service to the commission.

As we continue through the last months of 2021 and into the 2022 season the Commission is planning to work on increasing and rebranding signage, expand trail systems and maintenance on all properties; and assessing our Timber inventory and planning for future harvests.

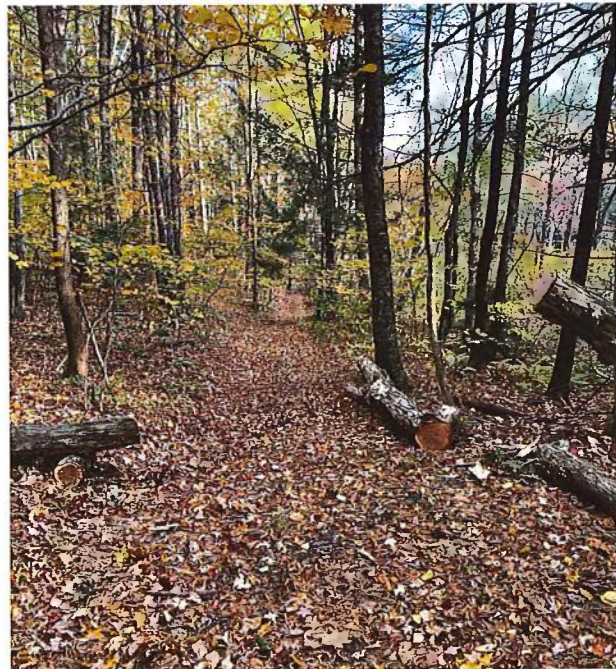
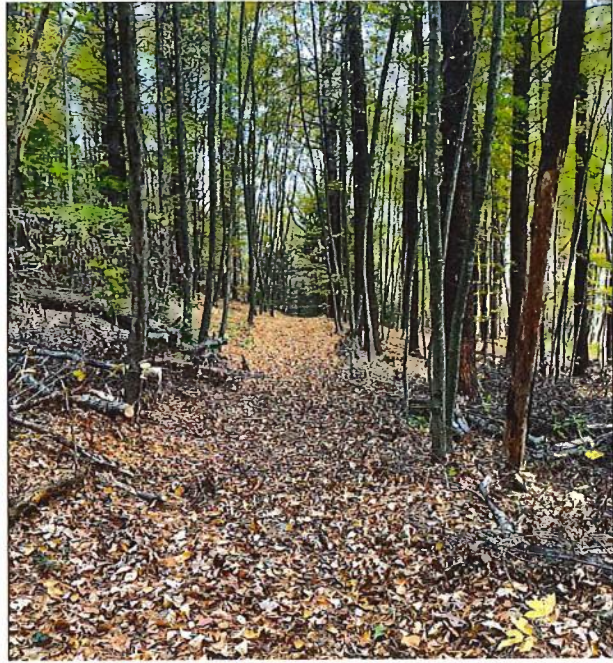
The Derry Conservation Commission meets the second and fourth Mondays each month, at 7:00 PM at the Derry Municipal Center, in third floor meeting room.

Respectfully submitted,

James Degnan, Chair

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2021 Trail Maitenance Focus



Keeping trails clear and safe for the public was our goal. Fallen trees were removed and blocked trails were reopened at Broadview (trail to Cross rd), Cole Marsh (multiple spots on Main Corridor), and the Low Property. All work performed was in conjunction with best practices and safety as our highest priority. Manual removal was preferred over utilization of power equipment. Power equipment was used sensibly with PPE in same standards that DPW would employ. Anything outside of our ability was gratefully supported by DPW by request.

As part of our trail clean up efforts all trails at Cole Marsh (Eagles Way, Marsh Loop) have been reblazed. All trails at Low Property (Rob Low, Ben Low) have been reblazed.

2022 will see the commission continue this effort with Trail work at Corneliusen (access off Holiday Ave), Reblaze of the Line Storm Trail, Reblaze of the Shepard Park trail to the camping area. Conquer opportunity to develop additional trails at Weber Forest and Caras Property off Willow Ave