

**BOSCAWEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Annual Report • 2005

The Commission (BCC) enjoyed welcoming Boscawen residents and visitors to Town Forest Day in October 2004. The Commission guided visitors through the Boscawen Town Forest Interpretive Nature Trail. New features included an interpretive kiosk at the former Weir Farm with pictures depicting the farm, buildings, and the Weir family. In May, Merrimack Valley High School students worked at the Town Forest this spring as part of their community service day. Students and teachers cleaned the trailhead area, brushed trails, and performed other maintenance. The Commission greatly appreciates their work and dedication. Thanks are also extended to Colby Lumber for donating lumber for replacement interpretive trail stop posts.

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) operated in the Town Forest continue to be a management challenge for the Commission. Motorized wheeled vehicles are not allowed in the Forest. Hiking, cycling, snowmobiling, bird watching, and hunting and trapping consistent with state law are allowed. The Commission is working with the Boscawen Police Department and the NH Fish and Game Department to enforce the ATV ban. Please respect this restriction so that the Commission can continue to manage the Town Forest with minimal cost to all of us.

Plans for 2005 include considering a timber harvest and wildlife management prescriptive cut in the Town Forest in collaboration with the BTF forester and the NH Fish and Game Department. The BCC will also investigate expansion of the trails in the Forest. Full moon cross-country ski and snowshoe nights are slated this year for January 28 and February 25 (dependent on snow conditions). Please watch the *Boscawen Newsvine* for further information.

The Commission reviewed and commented on numerous permits and performed a variety of proposals and responded to requests for inspections including applications for sand and gravel pit operations, wetlands dredging and filling, alteration of terrain, illegal dumping, land clearing, and numerous commercial and residential applications and proposals.

Plans for 2005 include soliciting a Boscawen student for a conservation camp scholarship. Candidates will be asked to submit an essay on why they want to participate in the weeklong camp. The successful candidate will be asked to present a summary of his or her experiences and acquired knowledge and skills at a BCC meeting. Past conservation camp scholarship winners included a young man who volunteered for several years and initiated projects with the Commission. The BCC is piloting a college scholarship program. The small scholarship will be open to Boscawen residents who are pursuing a career in natural resource conservation. Further information on both scholarships will be published in the "Conservation Corner" in the *Boscawen Newsvine*.

Each month a different member of the BCC writes an article featuring different activities of the Commission and other natural resource issues for the "Conservation Corner" column in the *Boscawen Newsvine*.

The BCC elected the following slate of officers: Michele L. Tremblay, Chair; Ray Powelson, Vice-chair; Mark Ciarametaro, Secretary; and Michael Jette, Treasurer. Laura Lane will provide administrative services under contract to the Commission. Regular and alternate membership on the Commission is open to all town residents. Associate membership is open to anyone who does not wish to commit to full membership on the BCC but wants a more formalized affiliation. Associate members and other individuals are welcome to attend meetings and serve on sub-committees. The chair extends her sincerest gratitude to the Commissioners who provide the energy, ideas, and leadership for its work.

The Boscawen Conservation Commission meets in the Town Office Complex on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. The meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Volunteers are always invited to help with trail work, serve on sub-committees, and participate in other conservation activities. As always, the Commission thanks the citizens of Boscawen for their support of conservation. Your ideas and feedback are welcomed and encouraged. For further information on the Commission or to provide your feedback, please call Michele Tremblay, Chair at 796.2615, email the Commission at [boscawencc@tds.net](mailto:boscawencc@tds.net), or visit [boscawencc.org](http://boscawencc.org).

Respectfully submitted

Michele L. Tremblay  
Chair