

**BOSCAWEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
Annual Report • 2007

The Commission completed the re-design and expansion of its website (BoscawenCC.org) through a contract with Yellohooose. The expanded website includes wonderful images from throughout Boscawen, a directory from which to download trail maps and other reference documents, an events calendar, forms to submit wildlife sightings and other information, and links to other conservation resources. The Commission hopes that you will find this website helpful and visit it often to provide your wildlife sightings and suggestions for resources.

The Town Forest continues to be a hub of activity and interest for our Town. Robert McCullough, University of Vermont, an expert on the history of town forests and public and common lands, led an interesting talk and hike at the annual Town Forest Day in October. The Commission scheduled its Full Moon Cross-country Ski/Snowshoe/Hike nights in January and February but the snow conditions were not favorable. This year, Merrimack Valley High School students worked with faculty to remove brush and debris around the Weir Farm cellar hole and other historic structures in the Town Forest. This, in combination with brushwork conducted by Norm LaPierre in the farm fields, gives visitors a better sense of how the Weir Farm looked in the 1800 and early 1900s. The Commission hopes that you will visit your Town Forest and enjoy its many natural and historical features. Be sure to sign the guest book/trail register in the mailbox at near the parking area. Your Commissioners read this register and consider all of your observations and suggestion in its management activities.

A dedicated team from the Commission including Bill Caswell, Mark Ciarametaro, Michael Jette, Kathy Smith, and Michele Tremblay worked to design an informational kiosk that will be erected in the spring at the new cartop launch at the Jamie Welch Park. The kiosk will provide pre-historical and historical summaries about the Merrimack River along with information about the Best Management Practices (BMP) installed there to reduce erosion. The BMP project was funded, in part, by a Watershed Assistance Program Grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services through the US Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Program.

Monica Matthews was the winner of the Conservation Scholarship this year. Each year, the Commission conducts college and conservation camper scholarship programs. Further information on both scholarships will be published in the "Conservation Corner" in the *Boscawen Newsvine* or visit [boscawencc.org](http://boscawencc.org).

The Commission continues its annual monitoring of the Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) easements on the Cummings (formerly Sahlin) and Jones (formerly Emery) properties. These model landowners provide the many benefits of open space on their lands, including wildlife habitat, lowest possible community services, timber and agricultural production, hiking, hunting, and the beauty of the working landscapes of open fields and forests that preserve rural character and make Boscawen the best town in which to live.

The Commission reviewed and commented on numerous permits and 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, intents to cut and excavate materials, reports of wood and timber cut or materials excavated, the Town's hazardous mitigation plan, and numerous commercial and residential applications and proposals. This year, Bill Caswell designed and conducted a plan reading training session for the Commission.

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; Mike Jette, Vice-chair and Treasurer; and Mark Ciarametaro, Secretary. Alice Kraft will provide administrative services under contract to the Commission in 2008. Thank you to Kristine Taylor who provided her administrative services in 2007. Thank you to former Commissioner Paul Fisher and Alternate Commissioner Sylvia

Bradford for their interest in and service on the Commission. The Commission also extends its gratitude to Chris Lawrie who has volunteered with the Commission and has worked in the Town Forest.

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 dedicated 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