



**BOSCAWEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
*Five-year Strategic Plan*

Adopted June 25, 1998

## PURPOSE AND INTRODUCTION

The Boscawen Conservation Commission was established to protect the natural features of our town; to preserve the economic viability of open space and to encourage and promote the conservation of our cultural and historical resources for current and future citizens of Boscawen.

Each year, the Boscawen Conservation Commission (BCC) has crafted an annual work plan with specific tasks it expected to complete each year. Work plan actions included statutory requirements such as inspections and commenting on proposals, Boscawen Town Forest Management activities and discretionary projects ranging from educational and outreach events to support and participation of and in other groups' activities.

The Boscawen Conservation Commission has been discussing for some time the need for long-range planning for the Town's natural resources and the Commission's role in this process. To answer these questions, the BCC decided during the winter of 1998 to begin a strategic planning process. The process encompasses several meetings including a brainstorming session facilitated by Katherine Hartnett, Deerfield Conservation Commission and Executive Director of the NH Comparative Risk Project. At that time, the BCC gave careful thought to the precious resources of Boscawen and what is its role in protecting them for current and future generations. The result is this Plan which will be used over the next five years to craft annual work plans to implement it.

The members of the Boscawen Conservation Commission wish to thank Ms. Hartnett for her invaluable experience and objective assistance and Erin Beaton, Merrimack Valley High School Student from Loudon, for providing data entry services at no charge.

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Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

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James M. MacCartney, Vice-Chair

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Michael Jette, Treasurer

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Ray Powelson, Secretary

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James F. Colby

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Norman LaPierre

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Charles Jaworksi

## **I. CONTINUE BASELINE ACTIVITIES**

*While the Boscawen Conservation Commission explores new projects and increased responsibility in existing programs, it has established programs and specific statutory duties including:*

- Easement monitoring
- Review and comment on permits and proposals including:
  - Input to Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Board
  - Subdivisions
  - Site plan review
  - Proposed ordinance and regulations changes
  - Variances and special exceptions
  - Site specific permits
  - Wetland Bureau applications
  - Intents to cut and reports of cuts
  - Response to citizen-reported complaints of permit violations
  - Regional impact projects
- Monthly column, “Conservation Corner” in *Boscawen Newsvine* (Also see ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION)

## **II. COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER BOARDS**

*Conservation is a global issue. By facilitating communication with citizens on other town boards as well as agencies and other organizations, we should work cooperatively to better protect the natural resources of Boscawen with other organizations and programs including:*

- Involvement in master plan revisions, zoning, site plan and subdivision changes
- Penacook-Boscawen Water Precinct land decisions
- Selectboard actions and plans
- Promoting and / or hosting a joint quarterly meeting with the following boards and organizations: Selectboard, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Water Precinct, Road Agent, Recreation Committee, and Historical Society, and Commission
- Exchange agendas and minutes with other boards, groups, and organizations
- Draft “Memo of Understanding” on inter-community communications for signatures by other town boards and leadership
- Educate groups and citizens about issues, such as work, problems

### III. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

*To best protect the vital resources of Boscawen, we must educate everyone -- including younger citizens about appropriate use of our natural resources and preservation of the environment by promoting and supporting efforts in:*

- Recycling
- Water quality monitoring
- Land-use
- Project SERVE
- Project Learning Tree
- Project WET
- Bulb planting
- Increase use of Boscawen Town Forest, interpretive and other trails
- Recruit Community Conservation Campers

Using these ideas and resources:

- *Boscawen Newsvine*
- Posting a “Green tip” at Transfer Station / Recycling Center
- Promote and maintain link between Boscawen Conservation Commission and schools
- Promote Boscawen Town Forest with signs, guide, publicity

With:

- Town Boards
- Schools
- Citizens

### IV. EXPAND MEMBERSHIP / BUILD VOLUNTEER BASE

*To be successful in its mission and programs, the Boscawen Conservation Commission must strive to include as many citizens as possible in its efforts. The Boscawen Conservation Commission will develop programs for expanded membership and participating including*

- Obtain membership lists from other organizations such as the Audubon Society of New Hampshire and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests to identify potential Commissioners, Associate Members and volunteers
- Conduct, sponsor and / or host near -term projects and events such as an open house, public meeting with guest speaker, and “future search” planning exercise
- Expand membership outside Town (e.g. Penacook through Associate Membership or sub-committee participation)
- Develop “welcome” package for new residents
- Form subcommittees and task groups

## **V. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Enthusiastic Commissioners and volunteers must work to stay abreast of new developments and keep current their natural resource and planning knowledge and expertise. The Boscawen Conservation Commission will encourage and support efforts to:*

- Stay informed of conferences, seminars, workshops and other professional development opportunities
- Secure funding for attendance to these events
- Develop library of resources and other technical materials
- Identify and solicit guest speakers and other experts to speak about relevant topics

## **VI. MANAGEMENT OF BOSCAWEN TOWN FOREST**

*The Boscawen Conservation Commission's has been entrusted by the citizens of Boscawen with the management of the Boscawen Town Forest. The Boscawen Conservation Commission must continue to improve management of the area and where appropriate, acquire additional land from willing sellers to improve habitat and recreational opportunities. To accomplish this goal the Boscawen Conservation Commission should:*

- Revise and update 5-Year Boscawen Town Forest Management Plan
- Develop annual work plans to implement actions in 5 year plan
- Strategically plan use of Town Forest Account funds for management activities
- Explore / discuss revenue expenditures for other land purchases

## **VII. PROTECTION OF OPEN SPACE**

*The Town of Boscawen is vulnerable to development pressures. Open space not only preserves the rural character of Boscawen but also provides recreational opportunities, maintains wildlife habitat and keeps local taxes low. It is important to protect open space by:*

- Identifying and inventorying currently protected properties
- Identifying existing open space
- Identifying lands at risk
- Identifying properties for protection
- Identifying possible open space corridors and greenways
- Working with agencies and other organizations such as ASNH, SPNHF, Other local Conservation Commissions, State Agencies, and CNHRPC
- Exploring existing and emerging funding mechanisms
- Acquiring properties and resources with willing private landowners

## **VIII. RECYCLING**

*We must recognize that all materials are produced from a finite quantity of natural resources. We must work with citizens and other town officials to expand existing programs and ensure that all citizens are recycling at the transfer station by:*

- Considering mandatory recycling regulations
- Expanding program to include plastics, household batteries, fluorescent bulbs
- Increasing participation
- Review options such as curbside recycling and involvement of Boscawen's commercial and industrial residents
- Developing composting program for vegetative organic waste including yard waste and trees

## **IX. TRAILS, PARKS AND OTHER RECREATIONAL AREAS**

*Boscawen is rich in natural resources. We must promote the appreciation of these resources through the environmentally conscious use of these resources such as hiking trails and other low-impact recreation. Such as:*

- Work with Recreation Committee on conservation-sensitive improvement of parks
- Research, inventory, classify and map existing trails
- Promote the use of trails where appropriate

## **X. PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES**

*The boundaries of Boscawen are wholly within the Upper Merrimack River Watershed. There are also many valuable wetlands and ponds including Walker and Patenaude's Ponds. There are two wellhead protection areas in Boscawen which provides drinking water for a many citizens of Boscawen as well as a portion of Penacook. Protecting water resources is essential for wildlife, recreation and the health of our environment. The Boscawen Conservation Commission supports efforts in the following areas:*

- Continue to support water quality monitoring efforts
- Work with Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Board to increase septic setbacks
- Develop programs for protection of groundwater drinking water supplies such as / Town Salt Reduction Plan
- Explore wetlands zoning / overlay
- Explore working with Boscawen Road Agent and the NH Department of Transportation in developing a town-wide salt reduction plan
- Develop prepare a *Natural Resource Management Plan*
- Explore how to develop national resource inventory
- Encourage development of additional shoreland protection measures

## **XI. COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT**

*By promoting an environmentally-friendly appearance in populated areas and town-owned properties, we set an example for private land owners to keep their land in open space and better manage their lands. Examples of promotion of this philosophy include:*

- Planting trees, shrubs, etc.
- Bulbs, plantings near schools, town properties
- Developing a business-sponsored “adopt an area” program
- Encouraging citizens to propagate beneficial species including native species, diversification of habitat and sensible, integrated pest-management to reduce and / or eliminate herbicides and pesticides

## **XII. WILDLIFE AND HABITAT PROTECTION FOR GAME AND NON-GAME SPECIES**

*We must work to ensure that people and wildlife can live in harmony by protecting open spaces and educating residents and visitors. Protection of resources often begins with developing and awareness and appreciation of these valuable resources. To further this goal, the Boscawen Conservation Commission should:*

- Conduct or assist with a wildlife inventory including songbird, aquatic and habitat surveys
- Promoting and erecting bluebird and bat houses and wood duck boxes
- Promote the preservation of open space