



**SHARON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**



2005 Members

Liz LaRose (Chair), Cheryl Cahill, Ken Callahan, Selinda Chiquoine, Karen DeBonis, Don Hart, John MacEachran.

2005 Activities

Land Protection

Currently working with Richard Dugdale of Jarmany Hill Road to place a conservation easement on his property. Out of his 150 acre parcel, Mr. Dugdale is **donating** an easement of 145 acres and setting 5 acres aside for his homestead. The property abuts the town forest on three sides and includes an active tree farm. In addition, there are open fields and wetlands created by former beaver dams. The Monadnock Conservancy will hold the easement and we hope to have the formal easement in place in 2006. Approximately \$6,000-\$8,000 from Sharon's Conservation Fund* will be used to offset Mr. Dugdale's costs such as title searches, surveys, deed registrations and legal fees.

Worked with the Planning Board and another landowner during the subdivision process to offer advice on wetlands setbacks and information on easements as requested by the landowner.

Landowners in Sharon interested in learning more about easements are welcome to contact any member of the commission or attend a meeting. Requests are kept confidential and there is never an obligation or pressure to place an easement on property.

Town Forest

The final year of logging on the 3-year logging project of white pine in the Town Forest is scheduled to be finished this winter. New tree growth in the two former logging areas is already coming up and many signs of moose, bear, porcupine, deer and other wildlife were observed.

Flagged some trails in the Town Forest for better visibility and began researching best practices used by large land trusts (such as Forest Society, Nature Conservancy etc.) to deter motorized vehicles.

Water/Water Quality/Wetlands

Conducted water quality testing on the Gridley River, for the fifth year in a row. This work was performed through the NH Volunteer River Assessment Program. At key points throughout the summer members of the Conservation Commission collected water samples at four sites on the Gridley River. Copies of the official DES report on our water quality will be published by the DES in the upcoming months. Please feel free to contact the Conservation Commission for a photocopy.

Conservation of "Place" & Sharon Culture

Coordinated Earth Day Town Clean Up with a focus on Route 124. On the short two mile stretch of Turnpike Road that crosses through Sharon, 14 volunteers filled over 90 bags of trash and pulled numerous tires and other large pieces of junk to the side of the road for pickup. Thanks go out to everyone who came out on a blustery Saturday morning to help and to everyone who picked up trash on their streets.

Other

Worked with the Town Shed committee and provided recommendations to the committee from a conservation perspective.

Attended The Dollars and Sense of Saving Special Places seminar hosted by the Greenfield cons com and run by Dijit Taylor of the Forest Society.

Membership

We have said “goodbye” to three members of the commission this year. After 16 years of service, Gina Goff resigned in July. She has been a strong advocate of conservation and a wonderful board member. Ian Coles resigned in July also due to work and family obligations. We are grateful for his service. Long-time member Selinda Chiquoine resigned at the end of the year due to a busy work schedule. In addition to being an advocate of conservation, Selinda was also responsible for beautifying our town with beautiful gardens at the schoolhouse and at several of the town lines. A big thanks to Gina, Selinda and Ian – you will all be sorely missed!

We welcomed new members John MacEachran and Cheryl Cahill who both bring their personal experiences and interest in land protection to our commission.

Issues and Projects in 2006

Land Protection

Action: Educate and encourage Sharon landowners to permanently conserve their land via conservation easements or donations to land protection organizations.

Action: Monitor and support the Quabbin to Cardigan (Q-to-C) greenway project currently spearheaded by SPNHF and 20 partners including Audubon, the Nature Conservancy and the Monadnock Conservancy.

Town Forest

Action: Maintain and re-mark hiking trails; create new trails if time.

Water/Water Quality/Wetlands

Action: Establish process for monitoring timber cuts to ensure proper wetland crossings.

Water/Water Quality/Wetlands

Action: Conduct the sixth year of water quality monitoring of the Gridley River.

Action: Continue to learn about aquifer and surface water protection.

Conservation of “Place” & Sharon Culture

Action: Coordinate the 2006 Earth Day Town Cleanup, planned for Saturday, April 29. Rain Date: Saturday, May 6. This year, we will coordinate a group to clean up Route 123. Please sign up to help at Town Meeting.

Action: Maintain heirloom perennial garden around the brick schoolhouse. Plant more bulbs at the Sharon markers on town lines.

* The Conservation Fund was established by citizen vote in 1994 for land acquisition and/or offsetting costs of land conservation. The fund receives 100% of the revenues collected via current use change tax. In 2005, a grant from the Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation added \$25,000 to the Conservation Fund.

**The Sharon Conservation Commission meets on the second Monday
of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the schoolhouse.
Interested citizens are welcome to attend.**

**More information about conservation issues and activities are on the
Town of Sharon Web Site: www.sharonnh.org**

