



SHARON CONSERVATION COMMISSION



2007 Members

Liz LaRose (Chair), Ken Callahan, Karen DeBonis, Don Hart, John MacEachran.

2007 Activities

Land Protection

Matthews: We are working with the Matthews family of Cross Road to place a conservation easement on his property. The Matthews are **donating** an easement of approximately 100 acres and will reserve about six acres for the homestead. This easement is very special because it will connect to several protected properties and will create a permanently protected “corridor” of land for wildlife and people to enjoy. The Matthews’ land abuts the Newton easement on Spring Hill Rd. and the town forest on three sides, including a portion of “Barnes Meadow” – a beautiful old beaver pond on Meadow Brook. Funds from Sharon’s Conservation Fund* will be used to offset the Matthew’s costs in donating the easement. The easement will be held by the Monadnock Conservancy and executory (backup) interest in the easement will be held by the Town of Sharon. By donating a conservation easement, the Matthews’ retain ownership of their property while permanently restricting its use to certain conservation purposes.

Temple Mountain: The Sharon Conservation Commission helped permanently protect Temple Mountain. Late in 2007, the 352 acre property officially became Temple Mountain State Reservation. The State will manage it for wildlife, non-motorized recreation and forestry. This is the largest state acquisition in southern New Hampshire since the 1980s. The funding for this \$1 million project came from the 2007 state capital budget proposed by Governor Lynch and approved by the legislature (\$435,000); the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (\$135,000); the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (\$301,367); appropriations from the towns of Temple, Peterborough, and Sharon; and nearly two hundred private donations ranging from \$5 to \$25,000. The Town of Sharon appropriated \$10,000 from the Conservation Fund* toward this project.

Dugdale: In June of 2007, the conservation commission and the Monadnock Conservancy co-hosted a public walk on Dick and Ann Dugdale’s tree farm on Jarmany Hill Road. Prior to the walk, which was led by forester Swift Corwin, the conservation commission presented the Dugdales with a commemorative sign for the entrance to their property. The walk was to honor a conservation easement that the Dugdales finalized on their Jarmany Hill Road property late in 2007. Out of their 150 acre parcel, Mr. & Mrs. Dugdale **donated** an easement of 136 acres and set 11 acres aside for their homestead. The property abuts the town forest on three sides and is an active tree farm. In addition, there are open fields and wetlands created by former beaver dams. Thank you, Dick and Ann for sharing your beautiful tree farm with us that morning, everyone in attendance thoroughly enjoyed seeing your well-cared-for and loved property!

Town Forest

We officially updated our 10-year Forest Management Plan for the town forest. The plan includes managed timber harvests, designated no-cut areas, as well as a new walking trail. Our town forest is an active tree farm, managed by the Conservation Commission with help from forester Swift Corwin. The town forest is open to non-motorized, low impact recreation, including walking, birding, biking, fishing and hunting. Please contact the Conservation Commission if you are interested in seeing a copy of the plan.

Conservation of “Place” & Sharon Culture

Coordinated Earth Day Town Clean Up with a focus on Route 124. Volunteers collected over 40 bags of garbage on the road. Thanks go out to everyone who volunteered a Saturday morning to help and to everyone who picked up trash on their own streets. It’s because of you that our town stays beautiful!

Water/Water Quality/Wetlands

Conducted water quality testing on the Gridley River, for the seventh 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. The official Department of Environmental Services report on our water quality are soon to be published. Please feel free to contact the Conservation Commission for a photocopy.

Membership

We are happy to report that Anne Fischer joined the commission in February of 2008. Welcome Anne! We are glad to have you on our team!! The conservation commission is chartered for seven members. We currently have one open seat. If you are interested in joining or want to learn more about the town committee that has the most fun, please contact the Liz LaRose, conservation commission chair, at 924-9614.

Issues and Projects in 2008

Land Protection

Action: Continue to work with the Matthews family and the Monadnock Conservancy to complete a conservation easement on their property.

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

Town Forest

Action: Timber harvest is scheduled for 2008-2009 in an area near McCoy Road. Abutters will be notified in advance of the harvest.

Action: Cut a new trail in the town forest from Jarmany Hill Road that will access the existing trails.

Action: Maintain and re-mark existing hiking trails.

Request: Anyone interested in volunteering a morning to help clear our new trail or existing trails, please contact the conservation commission. We promise an enjoyable time!

Water/Water Quality/Wetlands

Action: Work with Fish and Game to see if we can encourage the native wild brook trout population on Meadow Brook in the Town Forest.

Action: Conduct the eighth 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 2008 Roadside Cleanup, planned for Saturday, April 26. Rain Date: Saturday, May 10. This year, we will coordinate a group to clean up Route 123. Please sign up to help at Town Meeting or contact Liz LaRose at 924-9614. Landowners are encouraged to pick up trash in front of their properties. If you need blue bags for roadside trash near your property, please contact Liz LaRose.

** The Conservation Fund was established by citizen vote in 1994 for land acquisition and 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 Meetinghouse.**



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