



SHARON  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION



**2008 Members**

**Liz LaRose (Chair), Ken Callahan, Anne Booth, Karen DeBonis, Anne Fischer, Don Hart, John MacEachran.**

**2008 Activities**

**Land Protection**

**Matthews:** We have been working for the past year with the Matthews family of Cross Road to place a conservation easement on his property and anticipate signing the easement within the first few months of the year. 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 full ownership of their property while permanently restricting its use to certain conservation purposes.

**Interested in learning more?** If you’d like to learn more about easements, we’d be happy to talk to you. Feel free to attend a conservation commission meeting or call Liz LaRose, Chair at 924-9614.

**Town Forest – \$700 Grant & Boy Scout Eagle Project**

This year we applied to PSNH for a \$700 grant to fund new signs and paint for blazing the main loop trail in the town forest. Of 20+ applicants for the grant in this region, the Town of Sharon received the single grant award. Once the grant was received, we partnered with the Peterborough Boy Scout Troop on an Eagle Project. Con Val student and Peterborough resident Greg Potter planned his Eagle Project with us and spent a sunny August afternoon in the town forest with over 20 other boy scouts and adults to clear the trail, blaze the trail, and place the large wooden posts for our signs at key junctions. Greg will be receiving his official Eagle designation in a ceremony later this year.

We are proud to announce that we have named the main trail from McCoy Road the Don Sullivan Loop Trail in honor of this long-time resident who gave much of his time, energy, and wisdom to our town in a million ways prior to moving and then passing away. This trail is for you Don!

**Conservation of “Place” & Sharon Culture**

Coordinated Earth Day Town Clean Up with a focus on Route 123. 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 eighth year in a row. This work was performed through the free 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.

## Issues and Projects in 2009

### Land Protection

**Action:** Continue to work with the Matthews family and the Monadnock Conservancy to finalize 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:** During this year's Boy Scout Eagle Project (see Town Forest on previous page), another Boy Scout approached the conservation commission about building a walking bridge over a river crossing on the trail that is often difficult to cross in times of high water. We will continue discuss this potential project with this student and hope that we will be able to help contribute another Eagle Scout to the region!

**Action:** Develop a trail map for residents to use when walking the town forest.

**Action:** The timber harvest scheduled for 2008-2009 in an area near McCoy Road was postponed in 2008 for the 2009-2010 winter season. 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.

**Action:** Re-clear the Don Sullivan Loop Trail in the town forest. The students and adults working on the Eagle Project last summer did a wonderful job. However, Mother Nature undid some of the wonderful work during the December ice storm.

**Request:** Anyone interested in volunteering for a morning to help clear 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 ninth year of water quality monitoring of the Gridley River.

### Conservation of "Place" & Sharon Culture

**Action:** Coordinate the 2009 Roadside Cleanup, planned for Saturday, April 25. Rain Date: Saturday, May 2. This year, we will coordinate a group to clean up Route 124. 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 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](http://www.sharonnh.org)**