

## **WOODSTOCK CONSERVATION COMMISSION 2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **WETLANDS MITIGATION**

While the Woodstock Conservation Commission (WCC) has not been meeting regularly during the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been activity as volunteers and the WCC are studying and developing long-term plans regarding the creation of a priority list of wetland mitigation projects for the town of Woodstock. The goal of wetlands mitigation is to balance the loss of aquatic resources from the impact of development by securing protection, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands and streams.

Applications for development project permits, that impact wetlands, require that developers explore whether there are local projects recommended by the Town's Conservation Commission that may be used as mitigation. Currently, there are no identified projects in the Town, and developers therefore make payments to the NH Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund. These payments are pooled with other contributions to fund projects in our town's watershed (Franconia, Lincoln, Woodstock, Thornton, Campton, Plymouth, Holderness, Ashland, Bridgewater, New Hampton, Bristol, Hill, Sanbornton, and Franklin). In 2021 there were two permit applications from developers. In January the WCC and the Woodstock Select Board will begin work to establish a list of local projects so that future contributions will be applied to jobs in the town of Woodstock. Residents that wish to learn more about mitigation may visit the NH Department of Environmental Services site at <https://www.des.nh.gov/climate-and-sustainability/conservation-mitigation-and-restoration/wetlands-mitigation>.

### **SPONSORING STUDENTS FOR BARRY CONSERVATION CAMP**

Covid restrictions cause the suspension of our sponsorships for two deserving Lin-Wood students for a week of fun and "non-electronic" educational activities at the Barry Conservation Camp, located in Berlin, New Hampshire. We have budgeted to resume this program in 2022, if health conditions allow.

## **CONSERVATION EASEMENTS**

The Woodstock Conservation Commission continues to work in partnership with The Society for The Protection of Forests in monitoring the two conservation land easements previously granted to the town. One is a 43-acre parcel on Cox Road received from Loon Mountain for wetland mitigation for the South Peak project. The other is a parcel known as Merriam Woods on Tripoli Road. To retain these easements, the town must meet any restrictions listed in the deeds.

## **THE WOODSTOCK CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETS AS NEEDED**

The WCC is comprised of local conservation volunteers who work to study and protect natural resources. Most efforts involve protecting wetlands and preserving open spaces. The WCC works with the State Environmental Commission to provide local comments on wetland and other land disturbance permits. Interested individuals with questions or wishing to assist in becoming more active in the Commission's work may contact Kristen Durocher [kristen.durocher@gmail.com](mailto:kristen.durocher@gmail.com) or Jim Chesebrough [jchesebrough@keene.edu](mailto:jchesebrough@keene.edu), or the Town Office at (603) 745-8752.

Respectively Submitted,

Woodstock Conservation Commission  
Kristen Durocher, Chairperson  
Jim Chesebrough, Secretary