

**APPROVED**

**Town of Grantham  
Grantham Conservation Commission**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 8, 2012**

Chairman Richard L. Hocker called the Grantham Conservation Commission to order on Monday, October 8, 2012 at 7:01 p.m. This special meeting was held in the Lower Level Meeting Room at Grantham Town Hall located at 300 Route 10 South in Grantham, NH.

**Present:** Chairman Richard (Dick) Hocker; Merle Schotanus; Kristina Burgard; Lindsey Lefebvre; Joseph Watts (*Alternate*); David Wood (*Alternate*); and Caroline Hoen (clerk).

**Absent:** Jeremy Turner

**Members of the Public:** Charles McCarthy (Town of Grantham Planning Board member); Troy Simino

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

***Approval of Minutes for 25 September, 2012 Wetlands Inventory Public Forum***

Chair Hocker asked the Commission members if there were any additions, corrections, or modifications to the draft minutes for the September 25, 2012 Wetlands Inventory Public Forum.

*There being none, Schotanus moved to approve and accept the September 25, 2012 Minutes as written; second by Wood. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.*

***Unanimously Approved & Accepted***

***Approval of Minutes for 17 September, 2012 Meeting***

Chair Hocker asked the Commission members if there were any additions, corrections, or modifications to the draft minutes for the September 17, 2012 meeting.

*There being none, Burgard moved to approve and accept the September 17, 2012 Minutes as written; second by Schotanus. There being no further discussion, the motion was put to a vote.*

***Unanimously Approved & Accepted***

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Planning for Conservation**

#### ***Continuation of Planning for Grantham Wetlands Inventory***

Chair Hocker asked if everyone had seen the draft EXCEL spreadsheet and map recently sent by Dr. Rick Van de Poll, the Commission's consultant for the Wetlands Inventory, and had print copies for those who had not seen it. He stated that apparently Dr. Van de Poll was unable to be present, but that the materials sent were Dr. Van de Poll's preliminary draft analysis and calculation of ranking points for the fifty-four wetland evaluation units (WEU's). Hocker pointed out that the map showed sixteen (16) WEU's outlined in red to signify their draft ranked scores qualified them as very high ranked and high ranked WEU's, and that it appeared that based on the draft, Dr. Van de Poll will recommend these as possible candidates for prime wetland designation.

Wood raised concerns he had with the statistical methodology used for determining the final ranking of the top WEU's. While he believed the raw score data to be accurate and useful, he disputed some of the conclusions drawn and the number of WEU's put forward for consideration. Burgard observed that although Van de Poll's report was not yet complete, he had made available enough information for the Commission to begin a dialog regarding potential recommended candidates and how the Commission would select among those to make its own recommendations to the Town Planning Board and Selectmen.

In response to an observation made by Mr. Simino that Chase Pond, a very high ranked WEU in the draft analysis, straddles the border between Grantham and Plainfield, Burgard affirmed that Grantham has jurisdiction only over that part (approximately 1/3) of Chase Pond lying within its own borders. She thanked Mr. Simino for clarifying that point.

A discussion ensued about aligning Dr. Van de Poll's ranked values for the top WEU's with specific criteria embodied in Grantham's current Master Plan: flood storage capability; safeguarding water supply/quantity & water quality; and wildlife support capability. Wood observed that it is his opinion that some could fault the very even-handedness of the wetland evaluation scoring system because it does not highlight the exceptional qualities and critical importance of some WEU's sufficiently. Schotanus pointed out that the Commission is mandated to prioritize the Town Master Plan criteria but that it has the latitude to factor other metrics and criteria into its recommendations provided there is support to do so.

There was further discussion as to how to use the data from the evaluation to identify those WEU's that are the highest ranked or most critical in terms of one or more of the Master Plan criteria in order to arrive at a list of recommended prime wetland candidates. Wood emphasized the Commission's obligation to present solid evidence and reasoning to justify a prime wetlands designation since this would be essential information for affected landowners.

The advantages of seeking State designation of prime wetlands over local designation were addressed, given the State's well-established systems of enforcement versus the impact politics has in changing the prime wetland statutes. Burgard suggested that Lily Pond, Chase Pond, Lower Chase Pond, Bog Brook, Lower Eastman Brook, and Stocker Pond are all among the

## APPROVED

highest ranking in the draft results, as well as individually on one or more of the Master Plan criteria, and three of these have very low potential for landowner impact given that all or almost all of the surrounding land is Town-owned. The other three, while having quite a few landowners, are some of the most critical in terms of flood storage, water quantity, & water quality, and the area has the only deep aquifer and favorable analysis for a potential town water source if one is needed in the future. There was further discussion, after which Schotanus suggested that the Commission should wait for Dr. Van de Poll's final analysis and recommendations before moving forward with any specific WEU selections, and the Commission generally agreed with this suggestion.

Mr. Simino asked for clarification of the rationale for making prime wetland designations. Burgard explained that the Town Master Plan mandates that the Commission conduct a wetlands inventory and make recommendations arising from the wetlands inventory. Simino questioned why there was any need for wetlands designation, with the attendant restrictions placed on landowners, unless there is some history of abuse or problems with the wetlands. Schotanus explained that the concern was not one of abuse but rather of the protection of resources. Taking the example of Bog Brook, he pointed out that it was the only deep aquifer the Town has and that in the event of population growth over the next twenty years, this would be the only option the Town would have for putting in a municipal water supply. For that reason alone, Bog Brook needs some form of protection. Simino noted that it was therefore future planning that required the Commission to recommend prime wetland designations and Schotanus concurred.

Lefebvre made the point that there was in fact a history of dumping in Bog Brook and Schotanus added that there had also been filling and septic waste disposal at that site going back decades. Burgard emphasized that at the time of those abuses, there were no regulations in place to stop the abuse and that the current wetlands evaluation process is meant to recommend restrictions only for those natural resources that are critical to the future well-being of the Town. She asserted that mechanisms are needed which stop the degradation of key natural resources, as identified in the Master Plan, but that still permit activities that would not have a negative impact. Burgard stated that she was very concerned with the potential impact of restrictions on landowners and that the Commission must take particular care that it moves to protect only those resources that are of high importance to the public good.

Simino, speaking as a professional forester, encouraged the Commission to be aware that any added layer of bureaucratic restriction is a serious source of aggravation and expense to the landowner and should be avoided if at all possible. Further, he expressed surprise at the number of wetlands under consideration but was assured by Schotanus that significantly fewer would in fact be proposed for prime wetland designation. Burgard indicated she felt that prior to making any recommendations, the Commission should review which highest ranked WEU's are already subject to restrictions, such as those imposed by the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act or other Grantham zoning ordinances, and should discuss whether these existing requirements currently provide sufficient protection to a WEU.

Mr. McCarthy asked about the difference between regulations associated with prime wetland designation and those protections already in place. Burgard responded that under current state prime wetland law, the buffer zone is no longer present, so to impose a buffer requirement, you

## APPROVED

would need a local ordinance. McCarthy noted that some of the WEU's under consideration, notably Bog Brook, have many property owners who would potentially be affected. Burgard responded that, though not required to do so, the Commission has made a concerted effort to keep the public informed at all points of the Wetlands Inventory process, including sending out letters to individual landowners, and posted updates, results, etc., on its webpage to ensure that the Wetlands Inventory is a completely open process.

McCarthy urged the Commission to get on the Planning Board agenda for its November meeting, so that even if the final report and recommendations are not ready, they can open a dialog with the Planning Board and discuss the best way to move forward. He stated that the Planning Board appreciates the challenges the Commission is facing and that it is anxious to do whatever is necessary to help move the program forward.

Burgard stated that the Commission is only mandated to perform the wetlands inventory and make recommendations, and Schotanus noted that the final decision on prime wetland designations would rest with the Selectmen. The goal is to have a public vote at the Town Meeting on the prime wetland designations and on a corresponding ordinance for enforcement. He affirmed that the Commission recognizes that this is a contentious issue and that it is conducting a totally open process.

Simino inquired if Grantham has a wetlands overlay district and Burgard replied that it does not and that the current process is a means to support creating such an overlay district. Hocker pointed out that current legislation gives the Commission a greater measure of input as to new development than was previously the case because it now receives copies of all dredge and fill permit applications and can offer an opinion on potential impacts, as appropriate. Further, if there is a wetland or water resource concern brought to the Planning Board, the Commission is now brought in to consult.

Schotanus and Burgard both observed that with the completion of the Wetlands Inventory, the Commission will have the scientific data to back any opinions it may offer in connection with future applications or wetland concerns, e.g., dredge & fill permits, and will actually be in a better position to help landowners avoid the imposition of restrictions wherever possible. Simino requested that the Commission be mindful that prime wetland designation can impose the largest burden on the forestry industry, which has the least ability to absorb the added costs, a hardship which could encourage the sale of forest land to developers. However, he also expressed appreciation for the level of detailed attention and care the Commission is putting into this process.

Further discussion of possible prime wetland recommendations followed with consideration of the effect of current shoreline regulations on those recommendations. Schotanus noted that Dr. Van de Poll was expected to provide a draft wetlands ordinance and Watts added that Dr. Van de Poll intended to provide a sample copy of an ordinance used by another town. A possible change in the Commission's meeting schedule and timeline for the completion of the wetlands evaluation process was considered but it was agreed that final recommendations from Dr. Van de Poll were required before such considerations would be entertained.

**APPROVED**

***Annual Walk of the Flewelling Easement Property***

Chair Hocker reminded everyone that the annual surveillance walk of the Flewelling easement property with Grantham's Selectmen would be held on Sunday, October 14, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

**HANDOUTS**

Hocker read out a letter from the Town of Grantham Selectmen expressing appreciation for the work of the Grantham Conservation Commission.

He also distributed a flyer announcing the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commission's 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting on November 3, 2012 in Concord, NH.

Schotanus announced that in Chair Hocker's absence, he would be attending a Roundtable for Conservation Commission Chairpersons from Ausbon Sargent's 12-town service area to be held at the Ausbon Sargent offices in New London on October 25, 2012 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Flyers were distributed for a workshop on invasive species to be held in North Sutton, NH on November 1, 2012 by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hocker asked if there was any further business.

*There being none, Burgard moved to adjourn the meeting and Schotanus seconded the motion.*

***The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:42 p.m.***

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Grantham Conservation Commission will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 15, 2012, in the Jerry Whitney Memorial Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

*Caroline Hoen*

Caroline Hoen, Clerk



# Town of Grantham New Hampshire

300 Route 10 South, Grantham NH 03753

Phone: 603.863.6021 ~ Fax: 603.863.4499 [www.granthamnh.net](http://www.granthamnh.net)

Board of Selectmen

G. Warren Kimball '14  
Constance A. Jones '13  
Kenneth B. Story '15

Town Administrator

Melissa M. White

Administrative Assistant

Ann M. Jasper

Receptionist

Martha M. Norris

Road Agent

Joseph E. Newcomb

Assistant Road Agent

Jeffrey A. Hastings

Transfer Station Supervisor

Christopher C. Scott

Treasurer

Christopher Morris '14

Building & Health Inspector

Roger Woodworth

October 5, 2012

Grantham Conservation Commission  
300 Route 10 South  
Grantham, NH 03753

Dear Conservation Members,

We are writing to express our gratitude for all the work you have done on the Wetlands Inventory. The time and effort you have and continue to put into this project is greatly appreciated.

If we can be of assistance such as broadcasting information to the public please do not hesitate to let us know.

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa White".

Melissa White  
Town Administrator

# New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting



**Saturday, November 3, 2012**  
**8:00AM - 3:30 PM**

Rundlett Middle School  
144 South Street, Concord, NH

**30 great workshops and field trips:** The ADA Rule on Mobility Devices, Beaver Behavior, Wildlands, Wind Farms, Monitoring Conservation Easements, Stormwater Solutions for Homeowners, Green Fire Movie, Sustainable Land Use and Transportation, and more!

**SIGN UP ON THE WEB: [www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting42](http://www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting42)**

Questions? Contact us at: (603) 224-7867 | [www.nhacc.org](http://www.nhacc.org) | [info@nhacc.org](mailto:info@nhacc.org)



**New Hampshire Association  
of Conservation Commissions**

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970

54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301

(603) 224-7867 | [www.nhacc.org](http://www.nhacc.org) | [info@nhacc.org](mailto:info@nhacc.org)



Please join us for our  
**42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting.**  
**Sign up on the web:**  
[www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting42](http://www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting42)



**Join Us November 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
for the NHACC  
42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting**

**30 GREAT  
WORKSHOPS & FIELD TRIPS!**

**Come to learn.  
Come to network.  
Come to meet new friends!**

**Local Volunteers – Local Projects – Statewide Benefits**  
NHACC is there to help achieve community conservation goals.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Concord, NH  
PERMIT No. 878

8:00 AM Registration Begins

8:30 AM Business Meeting Begins

9:15 AM Keynote Address by:

John Davis, TrekEast

## CHOOSE FROM THESE GREAT SESSIONS:

Session A - 10:00-11:00  
(Concurrent Sessions):

1. New Commissioners Workshop - NHACC board members
2. Purchase and Sales Agreements in Conservation Transactions - Paul MacDonald, Esq., Ransmeier and Spellman
3. Understanding NRCS Farm Bill Programs-- Deb Weymouth, Rick Elismore, NH Natural Resources Conservation Service
4. Saving Special Species: Enhancing Habitat for Rare Species -Emily Brunkhurst, NH Fish and Game Dept. and Emma Carcagno, UNH Cooperative Extension
5. The Sustainable Land Use and Transportation Connection - Nicholas Coates, Central NH Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC), Principal Planner & PATH Program Coordinator, NHACC Board, Belmont, CC; Vanessa Gold, AICP, Principal Planner, CNHRPC.
6. New Approaches to Restoring NH's Rivers and Streams - Natural Channel Design and Dam Removal - Peter J Walker, VHB
7. Wildlands Connections - John Davis, TrekEast, Wildlands Network

Session B - 11:15-12:15  
(Concurrent Sessions):

1. Beyond Municipal boundaries: A story of wetlands, wildlife habitat, and connectivity at a landscape level - John Severance and Elise Lawson, Watershed to Wildlife Inc.
2. Navigating Large-Scale Wind: Understanding Local and State Permitting Processes --- Charles Levesque, Antirrim Planning Beary
3. Understanding Beaver Behavior: Resolving Conflicts While Protecting Infrastructure and Habitats - Skip Lisle, Beaver Decivers International
4. How to Incorporate Wildlife Habitat into Your Natural

Resources Inventory - Amanda Stone, UNH Cooperative Extension and Emily Brunkhurst, NH Fish and Game Dept.

5. Partnering for Invasive Species Control - Leonard Lord, Rockingham County Conservation District
6. New Approaches to Restoring NH's Rivers and Streams - A Primer on Natural Channel Design and Dam Removal - Peter J Walker, VHB
7. Wildlands Connections- John Davis, TrekEast, Wildlands Network

Morning Film or Field Trip -  
10:00-12:15

FIELD TRIP - Monitoring Conservation Easements - Chris Kane, Kane Conservation, Concord CC

FILM - Green Fire, a documentary about Aldo Leopold- Geoffrey T. Jones, NHACC Board, Stoddard CC, Loveland Forestry, NHACC member commissioners can schedule a screening as a cooperative fundraiser for your commission and NHACC

Session C - 1:15-2:15  
(Concurrent Sessions):

1. New Commissioners Workshop - NHACC board members
2. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Rule on Mobility Devices and How that Applies to Open Areas and Trails - Janet Zeller, U.S. Forest Service
3. Understanding Beaver Behavior: Resolving Conflicts While Protecting Infrastructure and Habitats - Skip Lisle, Beaver Decivers International
4. See NH Method afternoon field trip
5. New Hampshire Water Sustainability Commission: Findings and Recommendations for the Next 25 Years - John Gilbert, Chair, NH Water Sustainability Commission; Amy Manzelli, Esq., BCM Environmental & Land Law, PLLC
6. Piscataquog Watershed Assessment-Partnering For Success - Colin Lawson, Trout Unlimited; Barry Wicklow, St. Anselms Biology Department
7. Conservation Easement Monitoring, Documentation, File Set-up, Report Writing, Use of photos and GPS data - Stephen Walker, NH Office of Energy and Planning

Session D - 2:30-3:30  
(Concurrent Sessions):

1. Natural Heritage Data Resources - Melissa Coppola, NH Natural Heritage Bureau
2. Stormwater Management: Planning for a Rainy Day - Bill Arcieri, VHB
3. Planning a Timber Harvest? A Modern Timber Harvest Requires More Than a Chainsaw - Eric Johnson, NH Timberland Owners Association
4. How to Organize and Lead a Volunteer Work Day on Conservation Lands - Malin Clyde and Emma Carcagno, UNH Cooperative Extension
5. Make Your Voice Heard: How to Influence Lawmaking - Amy Manzelli, Esq., BCM Environmental & Land Law, PLLC
6. How to Interpret Plans for Permit Review - Gene Harrington, Londonderry CC, NHACC Board President
7. Soak up the Rain: Stormwater Solutions for Homeowners - Lisa Morn, Belknap County Conservation District, Laconia CC; Dick Lutz, NH Association of Conservation Districts; Jillian McCarthy, DES

Afternoon Field Trip - 1:15-3:30

1. Afternoon Field Trip: Putting the NH Method to Work - Wetland Evaluation in the Field - Amanda Stone, Frank Mitchell, UNH Cooperative Extension; Nancy Randall, VHB

NHACC member commissions please let us know if you'd like to reserve free display space.

NHACC is committed to environmentally responsible events. You can help by carpooling and bringing your own water bottle and/or coffee mug.

## DIRECTIONS:

### FROM ROUTE 89

Take exit 2, (Clinton Street/ Rte 113). Turn right onto Clinton Street. At the second traffic light, turn right onto South Street. School is on the right.

### FROM ROUTE 93

Take Exit 12 North, (South Main Street). Take the second left onto Broadway. After passing Rollins Park on the left, take the second left on Carter Street. School is opposite the end of Carter Street.

## HOW TO REGISTER:

We strongly encourage you to sign up online:

<http://www.nhacc.org/annualmeeting42/>

If you do not have access to the internet, please send the following form with your payment by October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 for best pricing.

We regret that we cannot refund registration fees.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Commission: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a new commissioner in 2012?    yes     no

PRICE PER PERSON (includes lunch):

NHACC Members:            \$45 (50 after October 25)

Others:                         \$55 (65 after October 25)

Walk Ins:                     \$65

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarships are available for students associated with member CC's, please contact the NHACC office at 224-7867.

Please indicate the sessions you plan to attend:

10-12:15

Choose one session in A & one in B OR a field trip

Session A \_\_\_\_\_ Session B \_\_\_\_\_

OR Morning Field Trip \_\_\_\_\_

OR Green Fire Movie \_\_\_\_\_

1:15-3:30

Choose one session in C & on in D OR a field trip

Session C \_\_\_\_\_ or Session D \_\_\_\_\_

OR Afternoon Field Trip \_\_\_\_\_



42nd ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS:



**Roundtable for Conservation Commission Chairpersons**

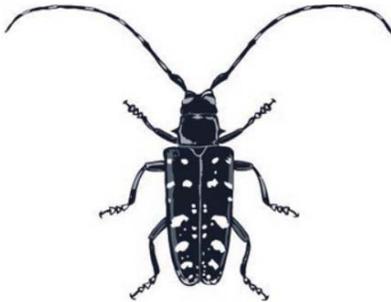
Every six months, Conservation Commission Chairpersons from Ausbon Sargent's 12-town service meet to discuss and share information. Contact Nan Kaplan, Ausbon Sargent Outreach Committee Chair with any questions at [oldnanofthemountain@tds.net](mailto:oldnanofthemountain@tds.net) Chairpersons, please let us know you plan to attend by contacting Nancy Smith at the Ausbon Sargent offices 526-6555 or email [nsmith@ausbonsargent.org](mailto:nsmith@ausbonsargent.org) The Meeting is at the Ausbon Sargent office at 71 Pleasant Street, New London.

***Thursday, October 25, 2012, 6-8 pm***

(Note: Grantham Commissioner Merle Schotanus will attend in Chair Richard Hocker's absence)



# INVASIVE SPECIES: COMING TO A FOREST NEAR YOU?



**Thursday, November 1, 2012, 6-8:30 PM**

Location: Kearsarge Regional Middle School

32 Gile Pond Road, North Sutton, NH

Refreshments will be served



In the last century, Dutch elm disease, chestnut blight and the gypsy moth changed our landscape as we knew it. In the 21st century, will hemlock wooly adelgid, Asian longhorned beetle or Japanese knotweed pose a similar threat?

Join us for a workshop about the invasive insects and plants that present the very real prospect of changing our landscape in the Mount Kearsarge—Lake Sunapee Region.

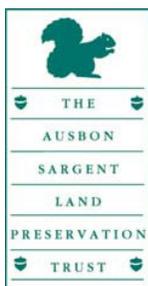
You'll learn to identify invasive plants and insects, see the damage they cause, and find out what you can do to prevent their spread.

## Presenters :

**Kyle Lombard**, *Forest Health Program Coordinator, NH Division of Forests and Lands*  
**Doug Cygan**, *Invasive Species Coordinator, NH Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food*

**Workshop cost is \$5 per person, and pre-registration is required by Monday, October 29, 2012.**

To pre-register, provide your name and the names of all attendees in your party and contact information to Nancy Smith at Ausbon Sargent: [nsmith@ausbonsargent.org](mailto:nsmith@ausbonsargent.org) or 526-6555, and mail your payment to Nancy at Ausbon Sargent, PO Box 2040, New London, NH 03257.



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

This program is  
sponsored by:  
The Ausbon Sargent  
Land Preservation Trust  
and  
The University of  
New Hampshire  
Cooperative Extension