

# **CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT**

The year 2018 proved to be an event filled one for the Sandown Conservation Commission. Commission members offered the community several different activities for the young and old to enjoy.

On January 29<sup>th</sup> the Sandown Conservation Commission held a Winter Wonderland Scavenger Hunt. There were 15 brave participants in the Fremont Town Forest for their first Winter Scavenger Hunt.

The Conservation Commission put on their yearly Moonlight Valentines Snowshoe Promenade complete with a bonfire, warm drinks, and hiking under the full moon. This year the Sandown Police Explorers sold baked goods. The hike was held on February 11<sup>th</sup> and was enjoyed by over 30 snow shoe clad people.

This past April, The Conservation Commission celebrated Earth Day with a visit to Playmates Learning Center. We brought with us a “Trash Fishing” activity that taught children the value of recycling and why it is important to keep from littering. More than 30 children participated in the activity.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> Mr. Sands held a Earth Day/ Geocaching cleanup event on the Odell Road Town forest trails. Many volunteers showed up to help clean up the trails from the winter and clearing any fallen trees along with remarking a few of the trails.

The Commission sponsored the Community Garden again this year and had almost every plot filled by enthusiastic gardeners. The garden is open from Memorial Day through mid-October. It is an organic garden. If you are interested in having a plot, contact the Conservation Commission in early May to reserve your spot.

The Sandown Conservation Commission’s Annual Kid’s Fishing Derby was held on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, at Sal’s pond. There were 99 children in attendance, ranging in age from 2-15. A total of 70 fish were caught! The SCC loves to host this fun, family event every year, and especially enjoy seeing children have fun and appreciate the great outdoors! Special thanks to: Sal Genuardo, who allowed us to hold the Derby at his pond for the 19<sup>th</sup> year in a row, TD Bank, sponsored the event and provided 100 t-shirts for the event, and to the many local businesses that donated prizes.

The Conservation Commission also purchased the Ross Property. Identified as Sandown Tac Map 13, Lot 21. This property is located by the Wells Village Town Forest. The Conservation Commission also had the SCA come in and build two water crossings to connect the Ross Property to the Town Forest.

The Conservation Commission replaced the Liberty Tree in the center of town. The Liberty Tree was planted on the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town. The Commission decided to replace the Liberty Tree with a Princeton Elm a hardier and native tree of New Hampshire.

On September 29<sup>th</sup> the Commission held Animal with a bad Reputation Event at the Town Hall. The Squam Lakes Science Center did the presentation.

Commission members had a booth again at this year’s Old Homes Day event. They handed out 50 t-shirts and engaged with well over 100 people regarding many conservation and wildlife subjects.

The Commission was presented with a Conditional Use Permit submitted by Eversource for temporary wetlands impacted required for the proposed H 141 Line Structure Replacement Project. The proposed impact is in various locations in Sandown. Eversource is replacing 6 wooden poles damaged by woodpeckers and replacing them with steel poles.

The month of October brought back Sandown Conservation Commission's "Walktober" for a third year. Walktober is an exciting series, spanning the month of October, of family-friendly guided hikes with knowledgeable speakers in a variety of fields. This year's event included four walks. On October 7<sup>th</sup> Ross Huntington lead a Mushroom Identification walk through the Fremont Road Town Forest. On October 13<sup>th</sup>, Wetland and Soil Scientist Bruce Gilday lead the Champion Trees of New Hampshire event. On October 21<sup>st</sup> SCC members and several of our neighbors enjoyed a Historical Walk with Arlene Bassett that started at the Old Meeting House and ended at the Train Depot. On October 27<sup>th</sup> Wells Village Trail Planning with Mark Traeger.

The Sandown Conservation Commission would like to thank Bruce Gilday the Environmental Consultant for the Town for all his hard work in keeping the Commission up to date on the ever-changing wetland rules. The Conservation Commission will also be starting work on a Natural Resource Inventory. Mr. Gilday has been a great aspect in getting that put together. Mr. Gilday also reviews any Dredge and Fill Application and Conditional Use Permits and provides the Board with his professional advice.

The Sandown Conservation Commission would like to thank Katie Palladino for her service to the Commission and wish her luck on her new adventures. The Sandown Conservation Commission would also like to welcome two new members Nicholas Ortins who will be taking over the position Ms. Palladino had and his wife Christy Ducharme as an alternate.

The Conservation Commission continues to exist and do meaningful work because of the community support it receives. If you are interested in getting involved with the preservation of Sandown's natural resources, contact us at [mtapley@sandown.us](mailto:mtapley@sandown.us). You can also find us on Facebook at *Sandown Conservation Commission*.

Respectfully submitted by the Sandown Conservation Commission,

Paul Carey – Chairman  
Brian Butler – Vice Chairman  
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Mark Traeger- Alternate  
Kevin Major- Alternate  
Thomas Sands  
Terry Knuuttunen  
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