

Conservation Commission Report

The Sandown Conservation Commission (SCC) enjoyed an eventful 2022.

The Commission once again sponsored the Community Garden this year and had a full garden with no vacant plots. The garden saw various items grown, ranging from tomatoes and cucumbers to sun flowers. The garden was able to be open Memorial Day through mid-October. The Conservation Commission would like to thank Scott Bassett for tilling the Community Garden to kick off the growing season. Also new this year on the property was a flourishing pollinator garden located on the same property. If you are interested in joining the Community Garden, please contact the Conservation Commission in early May to reserve your plot as space is limited. The Commission would like to thank member Christy Ortins for chairing the garden.

The Conservation Commission had another successful fishing derby this year. 64 Children were registered for this year's event and a total of 60 fish were caught this year between the four age groups. A special thanks to all of those who participated as well as donated great prizes for the kids. The commission was saddened by the passing of former Conservation Commission member, Sal Genuardo, who opened his pond to hundreds of young fishers at the Fishing Derby for the last twenty plus years.

New placards were added to the recycled benches at the Red Barn, previously installed by Girl Scout Gold Award Recipient Mackenzie Byron-Chaput, to honor the work she has done for the community. In 2022, Justin Silva worked with the commission to complete his Eagle Scout project, designing and building a new cupola for the Red Barn. We hope to have the cupola placed on top of the Red Barn in the upcoming months.

Chairman Butler worked hard this year to acquire new conservation land for the town. The Commission was able to purchase a 14-acre piece of land located next to the existing Wells Village Road Town Forest. Chairman Butler was also able to finalize the donation of 35 +/- acres of land located at the corner of Ferguson and David Lane. This property holds ten vernal pools and will have great learning and teaching potentials for the commission and residents. Chairman Butler and the Commission is also asking the town to place this property, as well as another property, already owned by the Commission, into the Wells Village Road Town Forest in order to better preserve the land. The Sandown Conservation Commission would like to thank Chairman Butler for being instrumental in the land acquisitions and for his dedication to conserving land in Sandown.

To add to the busy year, the Commission, along with a group of dedicated volunteers, were able to hike Fremont Road Town Forest and begin remarking the boundary markers as well as clean up trash around Great Rock.

This year the Commission welcomed a new full-time member, George Grivas and said "see you later" to former member Jillian Winmill. The Commission thanks Jillian for continuing to organize and keep our Facebook page up to date. The Commission would also like to offer best wishes to former Administrative Assistant Colleen Olsen as she embarks on a new career of Municipal Planning.

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 commission, please contact us at townofsandown@sandown.us. You can also find us on Facebook at *Sandown Conservation Commission*.

Respectfully submitted by the Sandown Conservation Commission; Brian Butler- Chairman, Nicholas Ortins - Vice Chairman, Timothy Robinson, Pamela Gaudreau, Christy Ortins, George Grivas, Mark Traeger- Alternate, Terry Knuuttunen- Alternate