

Conservation Commission Report

The Sandown Conservation Commission (SCC) reports notable activity for 2023.

The Commission once again sponsored the Community Garden and had a full garden with no vacant plots. 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 and for returning at the end of the season. 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 an interesting fishing derby this year. 68 Children were registered for this year's event. Curiously no fish were caught! Yet the event was well attended, and everyone enjoyed the day. Special thanks to all of those who participated as well as donated great prizes for the kids. On a positive note, the event was able to be held at its traditional site on Main Street due to the generosity of Rose Genualdo, daughter of former Conservation Commission member, Sal Genualdo who sadly passed away last year. Sal, and now his family, opened their pond to hundreds of young fishers at the Fishing Derby for the last twenty plus years.

The Sandown Conservation Commission thanks Eagle Scout Alex Fournier for the work on his Eagle Scout project installing bog bridges in the Fremont Road Town Forest. We enjoyed inspecting the bridges and found them to be an excellent addition to the trail system. Alex has done a great job, and we are very appreciative. The Commission wishes Alex good luck with the Eagle Board of Review and continued success in your scouting career as well as future endeavors. Thank you again for the excellent project.

The Conservation Commission continued its hard work this year to acquire new conservation land for the town. This year yielded a donation of 160 acres adjacent to Hunt Pond. The Commission wishes to express our gratitude to Robert Villeda. Additionally, the Commission participated in a land swap. This consisted of exchanging a piece of Town owned property on Main Street for a piece of land off Montana Drive. This swap was beneficial to both the Commission and the Town alike due to creating connectivity of previously owned conservation land. The future goal being a well-marked integrated extended trail system.

This year the Commission said farewell to members Nick and Christy Ortins. We thank them for their service and continued support. Therefore, we welcomed two new members aboard. Kristin McClary and Kala Knapp both come to the Board with conservation and environmental backgrounds that shall benefit the Commission instantly as well as the future.

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, Timothy Robinson, Pamela Gaudreau, George Grivas, Kristin McClary, Kala Knapp, Terry Knuuttunen- Alternate.