

# Tamworth Conservation Commission

Protecting  
natural  
resources  
and  
promoting  
conservation  
since 1966.

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**Welcome...**  
...to the website of the Tamworth Conservation Commission. The Commission, created by the voters in 1966 in accordance with RSA 30-A, is a volunteer board of the [Town of Tamworth, NH](#), with [members](#) appointed by the Selectmen.

**Public Hearing**  
Wednesday, January 9th, 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Brett School Cafeteria

**PURPOSE**  
Voters will consider a petitioned warrant article at Town Meeting in March that reads "Are you in favor of abolishing the TCC as proposed by petition by the voters of this town?"

For voters' convenience, this public hearing comes right before a similar public hearing being held by the Planning Board at about 7:30 pm.

More details: [click here](#)

**Minutes of Commission Meetings**  
For more information about conservation commissions, see the NH Association of Conservation Commissions...

**Openings...**  
The Commission has an opening for a full voting member and alternates (who vote in the absence of a voting member). Contact [info@tamworthconservationcommission.org](mailto:info@tamworthconservationcommission.org) if interested in serving on the Commission.

**Volunteers Needed...**  
The Commission needs volunteer assistance to maintain trails and conservation properties, monitor conservation easements, and help with other Commission functions. You can be an occasional volunteer or a more-dedicated Associate Member of the Commission. We welcome any help! If interested, or for any Commission related business, contact: [info@tamworthconservationcommission.org](mailto:info@tamworthconservationcommission.org).

**Introducing: Beaver Brook Conservation Project**  
[Click here](#) for details about this Special Project.  
For more information:  
[info@tamworthconservationcommission.org](mailto:info@tamworthconservationcommission.org)

[www.tamworthconservationcommission.org](http://www.tamworthconservationcommission.org)

# What are Commissions for?

## From RSA 36-A:

Conservation Commissions are formed “for the **proper utilization and protection of the natural resources** and for the **protection of watershed resources** of said city or town. Such commission shall conduct researches into its local land and water areas and shall seek to coordinate the activities..., and may advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its work. It shall keep an index of all open space and natural, aesthetic or ecological areas..., with the plan of obtaining information pertinent to proper utilization of such areas.... It shall keep an index of all marshlands, swamps and all other wet lands..., **and may recommend...a program for the protection, development or better utilization of all such areas.** It shall keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and shall file an annual report which shall be printed in the annual town...report. The commission may appoint such clerks and other employees or subcommittees as it may from time to time require.”

# TCC Basics

- Volunteer run / Advisory only
- Up to 7 full voting members and several alternates
- Appointed by Selectmen for 3-year terms
- Qualifications: Town resident, interest in the Commission's mission
- Operates as public body following Right-to-Know law – open meetings, minutes
- Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month, 7:00 pm

# Prior Members (not a complete list)

Jim Alt (early 2000s)

Roy Ames (early '90s, short-term)

Scott Aspinall ('75-'79)

Kris Bontaites (early 2000s)

Kathy Bunker (late 2000s)

David Cluff (early '90s, short-term)

Chris Conrod ('88-'98)

Harold Cook ('84-'93)

Peter Cooperdock ('87-'93)

Pauline Crane ('66-74)

Florence Damon ('74-'75)

John Damon ('66-'69)

Steve Damon ('73-'79)

Joe Dawson ('66-'68)

Kristel Faris (late 2000s)

Lori Gerard ('88-'94)

Charles Greenhalgh ('03-'04)

David Haskell (late 2000s)

Randy Hayford ('84-'86)

John Hidden ('70-'77)

Sally Gallagher ('66-'73)

Peg King ('66-'94)

Lori Lenart (early 2000s)

Carrie Maughs-Pugh ('85-'88)

John Mersfelder ('87-'09)

Percy Olton ('68-'79)

Red Perkins ('66-'84)

Betty Steele ('66-'03)

Dana Steele ('84-'91)

Claes Thelemarck (2000s)

Donna Veilleux (mid 2000s)

Earle Wasson ('79-'84)

Ralph Weymouth ('77-'84)

Tom Wilgoose ('79-'86)

# Current Members

Bill Batchelder

Ned Beecher

Chele Miller

Nelson O'Bryan

Margaret Rieser

Charlie Townsend



Alternates: Bryan Berlind, Scott Eldridge

# Annual Budget & Cons. Fund

Annual Cost 1987: \$800 (\$1,560 in 2010 \$)

Annual Cost 2007: \$3,791

Annual Cost 2010: ~\$5,550 (.26% of Town Budget)  
(does not include school budget)

Conservation Fund today: \$70,391

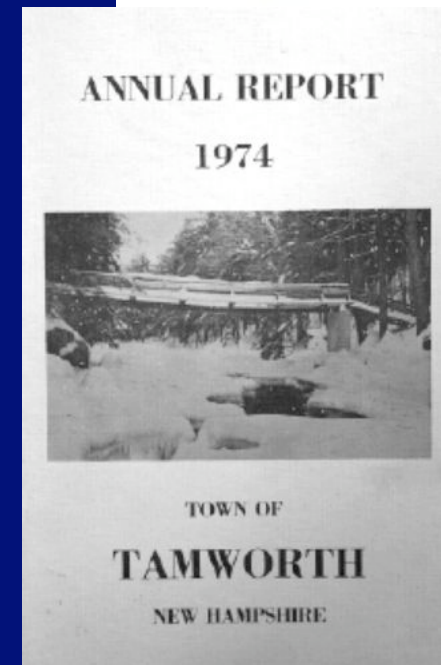
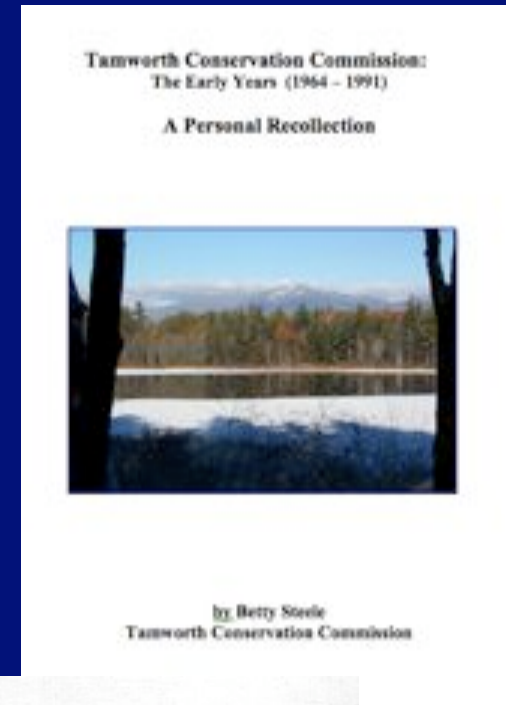
- Held by TCC in accordance with RSA 36-A
- Funded by LUCT money, up to \$5,000/yr.
- This is the TCC's "capital reserve" fund.

# Some History

- Created in 1966 by vote at Town Meeting in accordance with RSA 36-A.

## Major Projects:

- 1969: The Town was given Black Spruce Ponds & TCC set up trails.
- Early '70s: TCC protected Big Pines in Hemenway & set up trails & bridge (Dave Bowles' design)
- 1973: Published a Conservation Plan that is now outdated.



- 1977: State gave the Town Gt. Hill Tower; TCC manages it.
- '70s & '80s: The Town purchased & was given land around Jackman Pond.
- '70s – '90s: Tree-planting
- Sponsored kids to conservation camp (J. Hughes, R. Floyd, R. Austin, etc.)
- 1976 – present: Annual May Bird Walks
- '70s & '80s: Started recycling & helped with the old landfill.
- '90s: Helped sponsor Tin Mtn. programs (e.g. “Forests of the Future”) at Brett School.
- Annual Household Hazardous Waste day (late July/early Aug)
- CLRC: Natural Resource Inventory, Land Trust Standards, etc.
- Currently monitoring closed landfill.
- Helping Planning Board with groundwater protection ordinance

# Protecting Wetlands

This work is led by the  
TCC Wetlands &  
Subsurface Committee.

Photo credit: Nelson O'Bryan



State and local permits  
are required for work in  
wetlands.

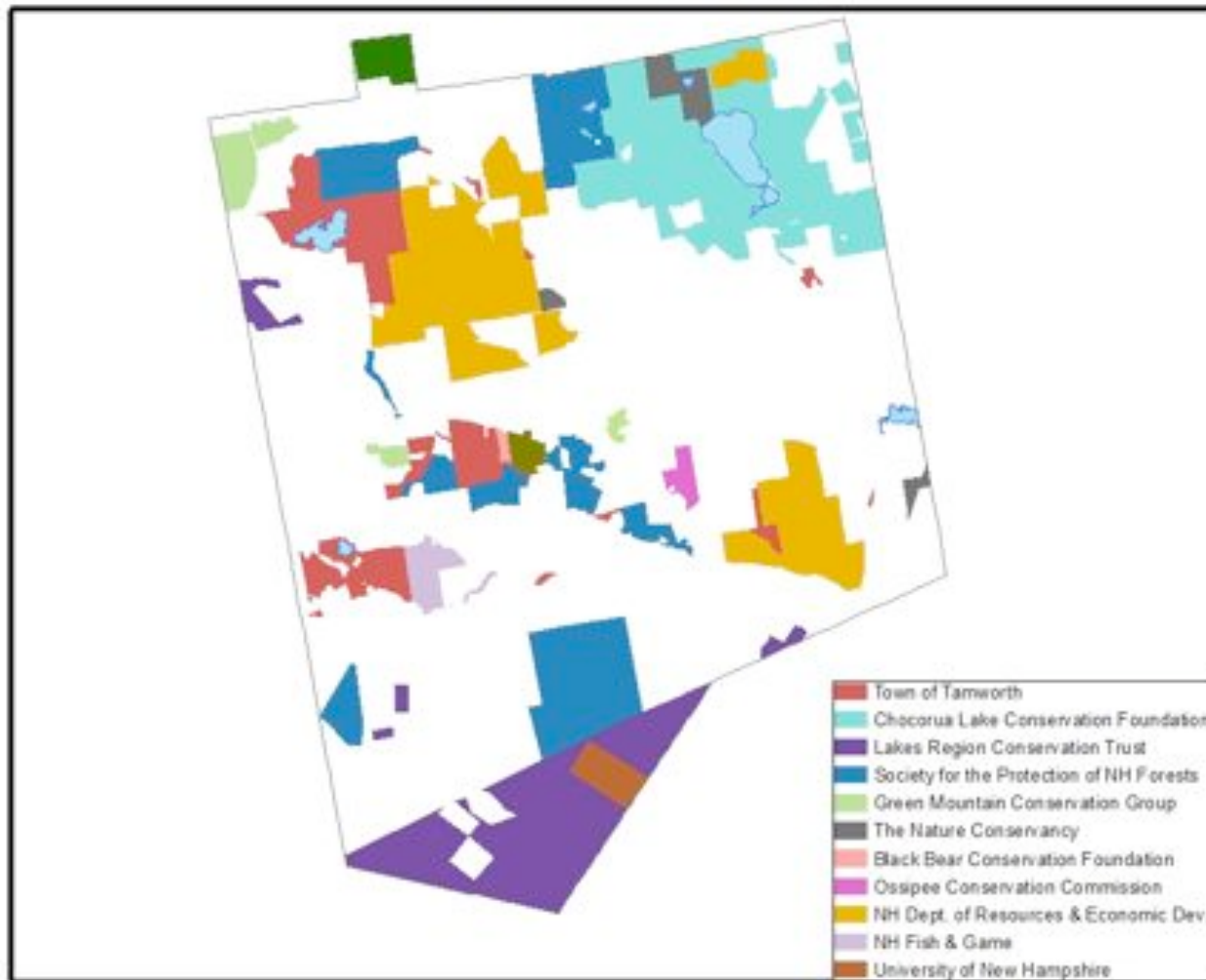


# Protecting Wetlands

- **DES relies on conservation commissions to review local dredge & fill applications.**
- **Prime wetlands mapped & adopted in '80.**
- **Tamworth adopted current Wetlands Ordinance in 1991: permit required for construction in wetlands; waiver needed for work within 25' of wetland ("buffer").**
- **TCC advises Planning Board on applications for Special Use Permits & buffer waivers under the local ordinance.**
- **TCC provides education about wetlands & their value**

# Land Conservation

Conservation Lands



0 1 2 4 Miles

January, 2011



**TCC  
priorities:**

**#1. protect  
shorelands &  
wetlands**

**#2. Since  
2009: also  
protect  
wildlife  
connectivity  
between the  
Whites and  
Ossipees.**

# Conservation Easements

- Since 1980s, no land has been conserved by Town owning the land.
- Conservation Easements leave land in private ownership, paying taxes.
- Most Easements are *donated* to non-profits (e.g. Forest Society) or to the Town.
- All Town-owned lands and easements are open to public use.
- All are approved by Selectmen & TCC.
- Town easements in early 1990s: Mill Brook, Great Hill Pond, Community School & Bearcamp River

# Recent Town Easements

- All initiated by private landowners wishing to conserve their lands while allowing forestry, agriculture, and public access. (People doing what they want with their land.)
  - These purchases were privately funded - no town funds.
  - Some Conservation Fund for transaction expenses.
1. Gilman Forest (with Forest Society)
  2. Beaver Brook Lot (with Community School)

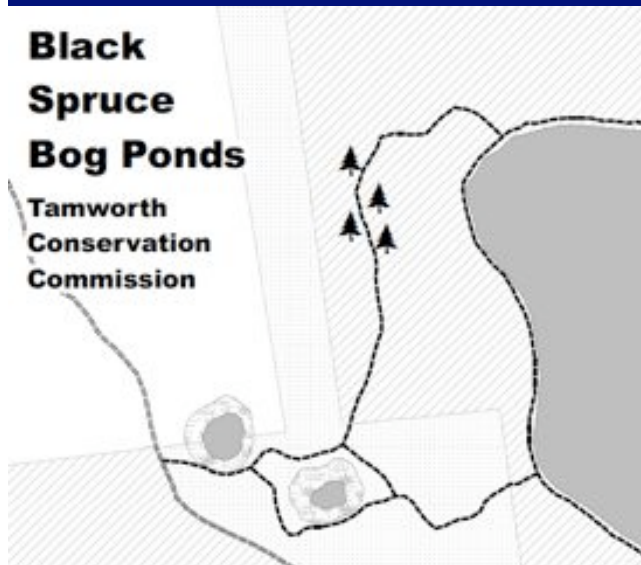


# Easement Monitoring

- Annual responsibility for Town



# Managing Lands & Trails



Maintaining trails to the Great Hill Fire  
Tower, June 2010

# Trails on Town-owned and Conservation Easement Lands

- Used by hikers, X-ski skiers, snowmobiles, etc.
- Maintained with Ossipee Valley Snowmobile Club, Tamworth Outing Club, etc.



Erosion control work, Page Hill Trail, October 2010



Rebuilding the bridge over Swift River at Big Pines Natural Area, 2002

# Education

Working with students and the general public on understanding local natural resources.

Kennett High senior Caleb Lucy works with Jamie Riel (right) on local study of vernal pools, Spring 2010).



# 40<sup>th</sup> Earth Day • April 22, 2010

## Sunrise at Gt. Hill Fire Tower





**Thank you for  
your interest.**

**Questions?**

[info@www.tamworthconservation  
commission.org](mailto:info@www.tamworthconservationcommission.org)