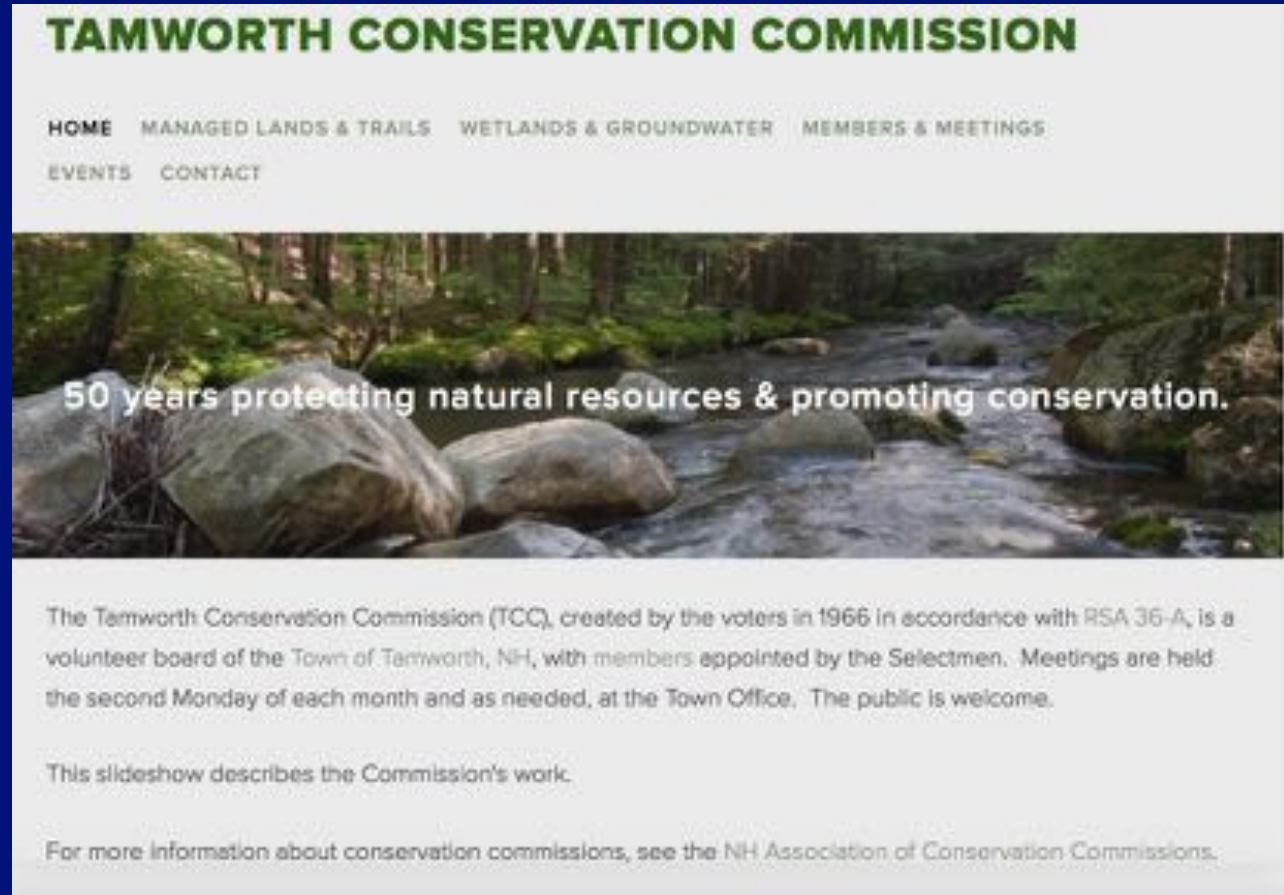


Tamworth Conservation Commission

Protecting
natural
resources
and
promoting
conservation
since 1966.



TAMWORTH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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50 years protecting natural resources & promoting conservation.

The Tamworth Conservation Commission (TCC), created by the voters in 1966 in accordance with RSA 36-A, is a volunteer board of the Town of Tamworth, NH, with members appointed by the Selectmen. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month and as needed, at the Town Office. The public is welcome.

This slideshow describes the Commission's work.

For more information about conservation commissions, see the NH Association of Conservation Commissions.

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 2nd 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)

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)

Annual Cost 2016: ~\$7311

Conservation Fund today: \$70,391

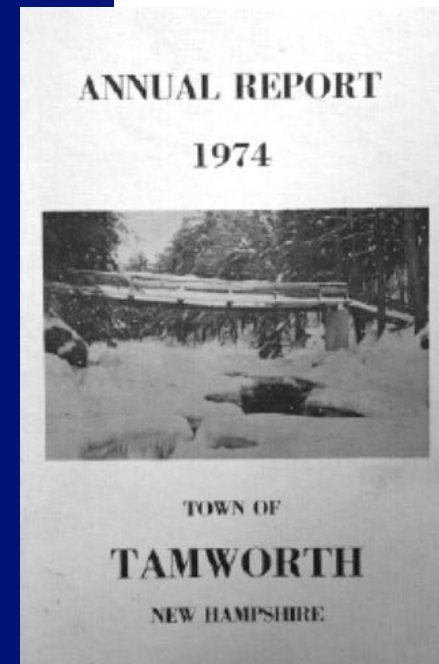
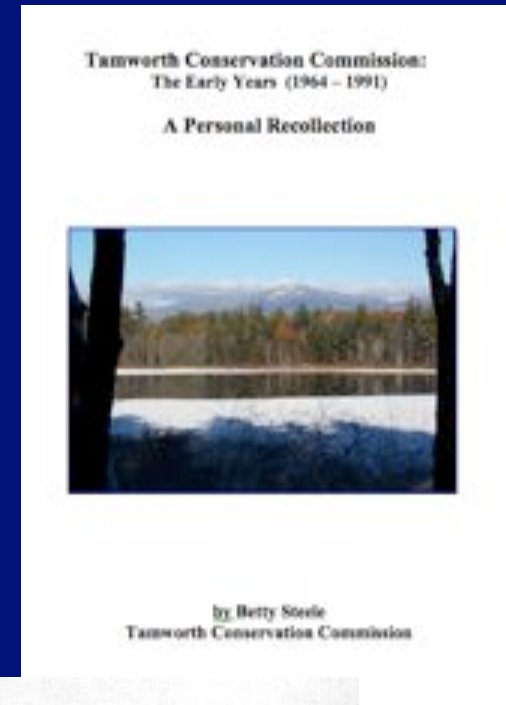
- Held by TCC in accordance with RSA 36-A
- Funded by Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) money: up to \$5,000/yr. (up to \$7500 starting in 2016)
- This is the TCC's "capital reserve" fund.

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.
- Helped Planning Board with groundwater protection ordinance in 2010 – 2011.
- Conserved land in 2010 – 2015, including Bearcamp Farm.

Protecting Wetlands



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

Photo credit: Nelson O' Bryan



State permits are
required for work in
wetlands.

Protecting Wetlands

- **DES relies on conservation commissions to review local dredge & fill applications.**
- **Prime wetlands mapped & adopted by Town Meeting in 1980.**
- **Tamworth adopted a Wetlands Ordinance in 1991: a local permit was required for construction in wetlands. Repealed at Town Meeting in 2011.**
- **TCC provides education about wetlands & their value.**

Conservation Easements

- Since the 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 TCC & Selectmen.
- 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 used for transaction expenses.
 1. Gilman Forest (with Forest Society)
 2. Bearcamp Valley Farm (with Lakes Region Cons. Trust)
 3. Reich (with Forest Society)

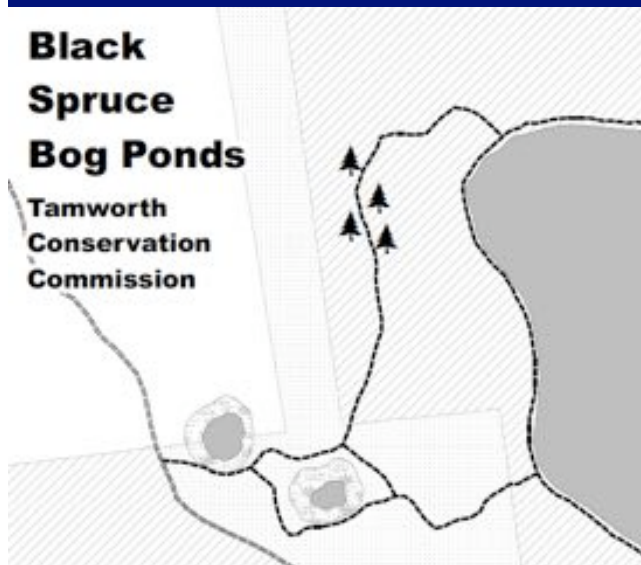


Easement Monitoring

- Annual responsibility of the Town, conducted by the TCC.



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).



40th 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.tamworthconservation.commission.org)