



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970
54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301 | (603) 224-7867 | www.nhacc.org

54th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

November 2, 2024 | Pembroke, NH

8:30 AM

Business Meeting for Members

9:15 AM - 10 AM Keynote

“Something Wild” Stories; A Peek Behind the Microphone with Thoughts on NH’s Natural Heritage

NH Public Radio’s “Something Wild” feature has been exploring the intricacies of nature in NH for more than 25 years. Chris Martin and Dave Anderson have teamed up as the show’s co-hosts for the past 16 years. Together, in short radio essays, Chris and Dave take listeners to visit the state’s most interesting birds, and forests while exploring unique Granite State habitats. ‘Something Wild Stories’ -- goes beyond the recording studio for a presentation filled with true stories and (a few) tall tales! Something Wild is a partnership of NH Audubon, The Forest Society and NHPR.

Dave Anderson is Senior Director of Education for the Society for the Protection of NH Forests. He joined the Forest Society in 1990 and is responsible for design, development, and delivery of conservation education public programs or field trips. He is a well-known naturalist, guiding field trips on Forest Society properties and teaching about forest ecology, wildlife habitats and land conservation. Dave is a co-author of the “Forest Journal” column in the statewide NH Sunday News. He has co-hosted NHPR’s “Something Wild” since 2008.

Chris Martin is a Senior Biologist with NH Audubon. He has coordinated various raptor monitoring and management projects for Audubon for 34 years, working with volunteers and with state and federal partners to aid the recovery of Bald Eagles, Peregrine Falcons, Northern Harriers, and Ospreys. He has been Audubon’s voice on NHPR’s Something Wild since 2009. Chris started out wanting to be a forester but was always distracted by birds, and eventually they became the focus of his professional career.

Session A - 10:15AM - 11:30 AM

1A

FUNDAMENTALS of CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS

Zachary Boyajian, Chichester Conservation Commission
Larry Spencer, Holderness Conservation Commission, NHACC Board

New to your conservation commission? Join us for this informative session on the fundamentals of conservation commissions. This session will give new commissioners the basics on conservation commissions, the laws governing what conservation commissions are established to do and some of their optional roles. We will cover the ins and outs of how to make sure your meetings are successful. Bring your questions! The *Handbook for NH Municipal Conservation Commissions* is complementary to the new commissioners who register and attend this session.

2A

BASICS OF NH DES WETLANDS RULES AND CC ROLE IN THE PERMIT PROCESS

Emma Berger, NHDES Inland Wetland Permitting Section Supervisor

Emma will provide information regarding the NHDES wetlands permitting process to help commission members better understand their role in reviewing applications. Under RSA 482-A:11, III, Conservation Commissions have an advisory role in the review of state wetland permit applications and may file a letter of intervention to gain additional time for review of a permit application to prepare a response to NHDES. Learn how your Commission's concerns and comments can contribute to NHDES' review of a wetland permit application.

3A

PRIVATE LAND POWER: Habitats for Pollinators and Turtles with Natural Resource Conservation Service

Kelly Boland, State Biologist for NH NRCS

Take an idle area of land and turn it into a blooming haven for pollinators. Tweak how you mow edges, and fields, and even manage sandy “unproductive” spots and you can make all the difference for nesting turtles. We will look at the on-the-ground steps to making these and other habitats in the right spot and how to work with NRCS programs to get the work done. Landowners have stepped up big-time, and we need to gain even more momentum.

4A

FORESTRY ON TOWN LANDS; THE WHY & THE HOW

Greg Jordan, UNH County Forester

Conservation Commissioners and Forestry Committee members are often tasked with stewarding municipally owned conservation land. However, many volunteers lack the training and/or experience needed to be able to make informed land management decisions, especially when it comes to timber harvesting. In this workshop we will discuss the long-term implications of “active” versus “passive” forest management on town lands and the tools available to help towns meet their management goals, including working with forest industry professionals, the components of high-quality forest management plans, and how to manage the timber sale process.

5A

NHDES CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT UPDATE

Jennifer Galbraith and Kurt Yuengling, NH DES

The NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), under a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), is identifying, evaluating, and implementing measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and associated air pollution. Members of NHDES’ CPRG Team will give updates on the process underway to draft a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) by late 2025 and a recent USEPA implementation grant award to accelerate the adoption of residential heat pumps in New England. There will be time for questions as well as a discussion of how NH residents and stakeholders can participate in CCAP development.

6A

NH WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN 2025 REVISION; UPDATE & DISCUSSION

Mickayla Johnston NH Fish and Game Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator

Every 10 years, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program leads the way in revising the New Hampshire State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The NH SWAP is an assessment of the health of New Hampshire’s wildlife and habitats, and provides a conservation framework for conservation commissions to use; from using the NH SWAP maps to identify conservation priorities, to implementing habitat stewardship for Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). In order to ensure the 2025 NH SWAP update is practical, effective, and beneficial, we are gathering feedback and ideas from conservation commissions that are, or could be, utilizing the plan. This session will provide a brief background on the NH SWAP, an update on the 2025 revision process, and an opportunity to provide your thoughts and comments on the plan.

7A

ENHANCING YOUR OUTREACH WITH MARKETING; Round Table Discussion

**Jennifer Beck, Wilton Conservation Commission, NHACC Board
and Vicki Brown, East Kington Conservation Commission**

Join two marketing pros in an interactive discussion and workshop that can help increase the impact of your commission's community outreach efforts. Learn some simple approaches and tactics you can deploy tomorrow to get people motivated to support your goals.

8A

LAND CONSERVATION OPTIONS & ROLES FOR CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS

Leah Hart and Stacie Hernandez, Society for the Protection of NH Forests

Learn the basic options that New Hampshire landowners have for permanently conserving their land, and the ways that Conservation Commissions can assist in these transactions. Leah Hart and Stacie Hernandez, Land Conservation Project Managers at the Forest Society, will discuss differences between landowners conveying outright ownership of their land versus a conservation easement. They will also discuss financial considerations for such transactions, future stewardship and monitoring requirements, and examples of how land trusts and conservation commissions have partnered successfully.