



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

Session B - 12:45 - 2:00 PM

1B

KNOW YOUR NATURAL RESOURCES USE YOUR NRI !

Jeffrey N. Littleton, Principal Ecologist, Moosewood Ecological LLC

You can't protect it all! How do you decide what to prioritize? A natural resources inventory (NRI) provides a scientific basis to support your natural resources protection and land conservation decisions. Learn what data and information is needed for an NRI and what is new! How do you determine what you have for natural resources? How do you prioritize what to protect? How do you get started, update, or implement an NRI? How can the NRI and the natural resources chapter in your master plan work together? How can your community get involved with the NRI? We will address these and other questions you may have – be prepared for an interactive discussion!

2B

NH FISH & GAME ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROGRAM:

How Conservation Commissions Can Be Involved and What to Expect
Kevin Sullivan, Environmental Review Program Supervisor for the NH Fish and Game

The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) works with agencies and municipalities to seek the best outcomes for wildlife in projects of all types throughout the state. In 2022 a NH Supreme Court Case led to the implementation of new rules requiring a consultation process with NHFG as a condition of the permitting process for many permits. NHFG consultations are most frequently associated with Wetland, Shoreland, and Alteration of Terrain Permits issued by the NH Department of Environmental Services, although other permits include the requirement to consult with NHFG. This program will provide an introduction to help understand the rules that govern the NHFG consultation process, when a consultation is required, when a consultation is recommended, what types of recommendations are commonly issued in the interest of protecting threatened and endangered wildlife species, and how a Conservation Commission can play a part in the consultation process.

3B

HABITAT RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT

Heidi Holman, NH Fish & Game

Protecting special places for wildlife to live is a great first step for keeping common species common in New Hampshire. There are actions that can be taken to manage the habitat to support the greatest diversity of plant and animal species. Learn about how to assess your property and enhance its ability to support wildlife through active management.

4B

TIMBER HARVEST LAWS & BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

Steven Roberge, NH's State Extension Forester

Learn more about the recently updated *Guide to New Hampshire Timber Harvesting Laws* publication that highlight recent changes in harvesting laws in NH. In addition, Roberge will present on voluntary practices forestland owners, foresters, and logging professionals can implement and plan for in the face of a change climate and extreme conditions to better protect water quality and soil productivity.

5B

CLIMATE CHANGE & CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Lisa Doner, Plymouth State University

New Hampshire is increasingly recognized as an important climate refuge because of its northern location and water-rich landscape. Population growth into the region has brought development pressure on open space and urgent need for long-term conservation planning, in part because open space can be an effective tool for enhancing community climate resilience. This session examines the more common impacts that climate change will have on NH lands and wetlands, and how strategic conservation planning can preserve and enhance local resilience and reduce risks from climate extremes.

6B

AN INTRODUCTION to GIS-ENABLED TRAIL MAPPING

USING QGIS and AVENZA

Jim Wilkinson, Vice-Chair of the Hampstead Conservation Commission and retired software executive

Jim will show how to use QGIS software to produce completely custom maps that can be exported in just about any format including large print formats for use at trailhead kiosks as well as formats suitable for mass printing or print at home by trail users. Jim will also show how to produce GPS enabled PDF files that can be used with the mobile app Avenza so that end users can easily navigate your trails with custom trail coloring to match your trail blazes, points of interest specific to your trails, and more. The possibilities are almost unlimited.

KEEPING YOUR COMMISSION ALIVE, WELL AND RELEVANT

Steve Wingate, Tuftonboro Conservation Commission and NHACC Board

7B

Are you struggling to find new members for your conservation commission or to keep the current members excited and engaged in the work of conservation in your town or city? Recruiting and keeping commissioners is an important task for successful conservation commissions. This workshop will offer suggestions for inviting new members, keeping the work (and meetings!) fun and productive while engaging each member so that they feel their contribution is needed and valued.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT MONITORING

Amy Manzelli, Esq., Co-owner and Attorney, BCM Environmental & Land Law

8B

Is your conservation commission responsible for monitoring conservation easements? Are your monitoring reports subject to the Right-to-Know law? Do your monitoring obligations differ based on whether you hold a conservation easement or own the land outright? Learn all the legal ins and outs of monitoring conservation easements with attorney Amy Manzelli. In this dynamic session packed full of practical pointers, you will also have the opportunity to get information specific to your commission.