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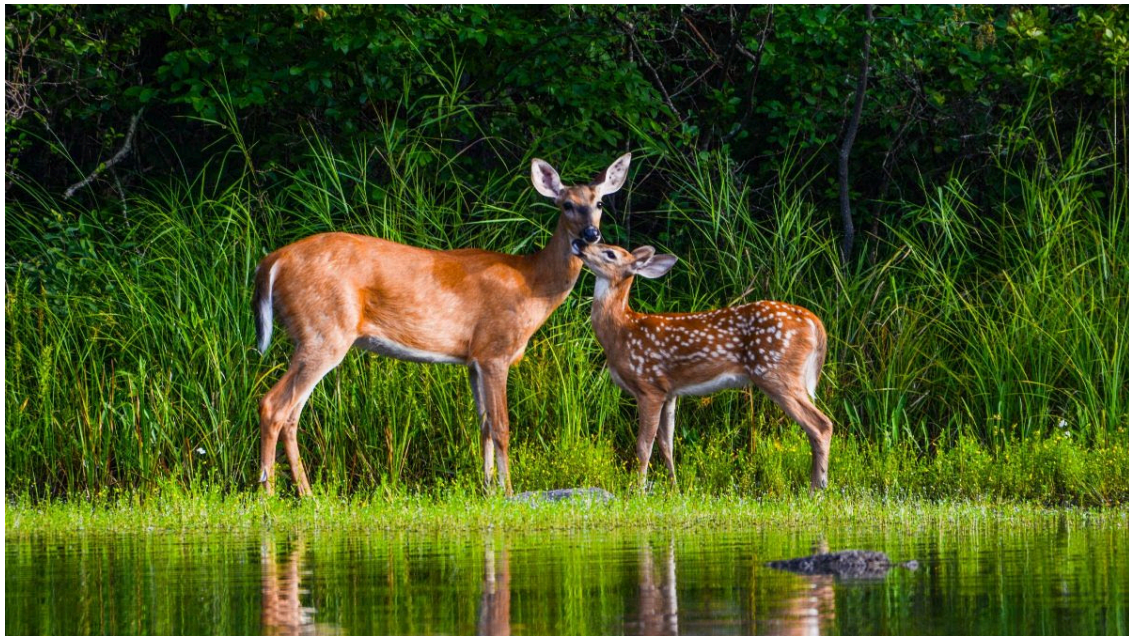
NHACC May 2024 Enews

1 message

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Fri, May 10, 2024 at 9:38 AM

Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!



Recruiting & Engaging New Members

Photo by Beth Meyer

A good commission continually works to find interested people and keep them engaged. Look for potential members who have already shown interest in commission activities and may have attended hikes or presentations. The membership of a conservation commission is prescribed by **RSA 36-A:3**. Commission members must be appointed by the select board or mayor for three-year terms, staggered so that each year approximately one third of the terms expire. Many towns have instituted an interview process for appointments, and some ask for resumes or require an application process. Many new commissioners are initially appointed as alternates

then they are appointed to regular positions as they gain experience. Present your recommendations to the appointing authority with a letter that references RSA 36-A and outlines the proposed member's interest and skills. [For more info](#)

NHACC Membership Benefits

NHACC now has a listserv (email distribution list) to distribute timely information to the conservation community. The electronic listserv provides an efficient way for conservation commissions to reach out to others to seek advice, to ask questions, and share information. Check out our listserv **NHACC Exchange** and ask your questions to other commissioners who may have answers. [Sign up here](#) to join the NHACC Exchange.

NHACC Handbooks are still available at discounted rate of \$20 for NHACC members. This handbook serves as an introduction for new members to the powers, responsibilities and possibilities of conservation commissions and as a reference for more experienced commissioners. To order a Municipal Conservation Commission Handbook, please email Linda at: admin@NHACC.org.

Visit the [NHACC website](#) for guidance documents and educational material. We expanded and enhanced our members resource library section to provide easy access to the most critical information that commissions need. This resource library is packed with information both created and curated by NHACC.

Remember, the benefits of membership also include:

- Discounted rate at our Annual Conference to be on November 2;
- Representation in the state legislature and on state-wide commissions;
- Online Lunch & Learn programs free to our members;
- Access to technical assistance and guidance;
- Access to our updated website;
- Educational opportunities focused on wetland permit review;
- Networking opportunities including roundtables, hikes, and potlucks;
- Up-to-date publications from our E-news and Legislative Updates.

CCs in the News

Rochester Conservation Commission

The Rochester Conservation Commission is pleased to report that more than 20 volunteers gathered to clean up a polluted section of the Cocheco River. The effort was organized to address a specific bend of the river that has experienced severe trash collection. The problem was brought to the City's attention by local residents interested in finding a solution. [Read more.](#)

Hampton Conservation Commission

The Hampton Conservation Commission (HCC) is excited to announce 33.72 acres of land has been conserved off Timber Swamp Road in Hampton! This land, The Olive and Robert 'Vic' Wildlife Preserve, was donated to the Town by Keith Lessard in honor of his parents who stewarded this land for many decades. The Wildlife Preserve consists of forest and wetland habitat and connects two conserved parcels of land, providing access to land that was previously inaccessible. The HCC is humbled by and grateful for the generosity of Mr. Lessard for such a significant donation. [Read more.](#)

Manchester Conservation Commission

May is National Bike Month! To mark this exciting occasion, the Bike Walk Alliance of New Hampshire, in collaboration with the Granite State Wheelers and the New Hampshire Rail Trail Coalition, invites you on a thrilling series of guided bicycle tours along the breathtaking rail trails of the Granite State. Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or new to biking, these weekend tours are designed to ignite your sense of adventure and showcase the natural beauty of New Hampshire's trail system. [Read more.](#)

Newmarket Conservation Commission

Fourteen Newmarket high school students and their teacher Mr. Silas Richards joined Conservation Commission Chair Ellen Snyder and resident and carpenter Paul Marino for a Newmarket Cares Day stewardship morning at Heron Point Sanctuary last Friday. The students were wonderful and the group accomplished a lot: cleaned out and re-set rocks in the drainage swale at the trailhead; raked leaves and gravel to smooth out the parking area and trail; cleaned the platform and boardwalk of debris, helped fix broken railings on the platform working with Paul, cleaned a trail sign, and cleared several trails of brush.

The Milton Conservation Commissions

Wildlife biologist Josh Megyesy from the New Hampshire Fish and Game's Nongame and Endangered Species talked about turtles with the commission. There are 7 species of turtles that are considered native to New Hampshire. Some species, such as painted and snapping turtles, are relatively common and widespread across the state. Other species like the Blanding's turtles are becoming increasingly imperiled. Four of the 7 species (Blanding's turtle, spotted turtle, wood turtle, box turtle) were identified as species in greatest need of conservation in the New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan. After the presentation, the commission enjoyed a hike on the Jones Brook Conservation easement with the bonus of painted turtles to examine.

Education & Training Opportunities

NH DES Training video on Trails and Wetlands

If your commissions is planning maintaining an existing trail or constructing a new one, this video presentation outlines everything you need to know when you encounter wetlands and streams on location. [See video](#)

Easement Monitoring for Volunteers

May 31, 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Baker Free Library, Bow NH

Are you a volunteer responsible for monitoring conservation easements for your town or local land trust? This FREE workshop will offer best practices for performing annual monitoring of easements. We'll spend time indoors learning before heading outside to put your new skills to work. This workshop is hosted by UNH Cooperative Extension and Bow Open Spaces. Registration and [more info here.](#)

Fostering Regional Resilience: SNHPC's Roadway Adaptation Toolkit Webinar

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm, Wednesday, May 15

Free for NHMA Members/Associate Members- \$20 Municipal Non-Member*

The functionality and reliability of the transportation network is a priority issue for every community, and the Southern NH Planning Commission (SNHPC) has found that roadway adaptation offers a strategic path for bringing diverse stakeholders together to address pressing climate concerns. In 2023, the SNHPC released a Roadway Adaptation Toolkit to help communities shift from analysis into action to advance regional resilience efforts. This webinar will provide a high-level overview of select toolkit content, including:

- A corridor-scale approach to analyzing roadway vulnerabilities
- A menu of strategies that communities can use to address unique vulnerability concerns
- A case study offering implementation insights from one community in the SNHPC region

Join Suzanne Nienaber, Principal Planner, and Zachary Swick, Senior GIS Analyst, with the SNHPC, who will provide details of this toolkit and give participants the opportunity to discuss their own roadway adaptation priorities. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

Grant Opportunities

AQUATIC RESOURCE MITIGATION (ARM) FUND

[ARM Fund Pre-proposal Forms](#) are due May 31, 2024.

The ARM Fund is now accepting pre-proposals for its 2024 grant round! The Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program aims to sustain the functions and values of aquatic resources in New Hampshire through protection, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and streams, to compensate for the aquatic resources lost from development and other impacts. When wetland functions and values will be lost due to development, funds may be placed into the ARM fund. Fees collected by ARM are pooled within the same major watershed and then distributed as competitive grants so that the money collected is going back to the areas affected by the project. For more information go to the [DES website](#).

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR STEWARDSHIP COSTS in the GREAT BAY WATERSHED

Application Due Date: June 1, 2024.

The Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership announces Stewardship Grant Program 2024 Grant applications are available for the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership's Stewardship Grant Program. The grants program assists with land stewardship costs for the permanently protected conservation lands in the Great Bay watershed area of New Hampshire. Stewardship activities supported by this grant program include habitat management, existing trail maintenance, property/project planning, and natural resource inventory projects. Projects that involve resource sharing or collaboration with partners/abutters on stewardship actions across property boundaries are encouraged. Eligible applicants include the fee owner or conservation easement holder of an eligible conservation property, including qualified nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) conservation organizations, municipalities and units of government.

Stewardship Grant Application Instructions and Application Form are available on the [GBRPP website](#). For information, contact Dea Brickner-Wood ~ Great Bay Coordinator

Funding Available for Tools and Projects that Eradicate Invasive Species

Application deadline: May 27, 2024

The Invasive Species Eradication Funding Opportunity invites proposals to support the eradication of newly introduced or established species in terrestrial or aquatic habitats (including freshwater, wetland, riparian, estuarine, and marine) of the United States and its territories. While preference will be given to proposals that result in eradication of invasive species, research proposals that advance research that increases the effectiveness and availability of eradication tools will also be considered. [For more information.](#)

Funding Enables Community Engagement With Public Lands

Application deadline: June 21, 2024

Grant amount: The suggested amount for new applicants is \$35,000 or less.

Description: The Matching Awards Program, the National Forest Foundation's flagship competitive grant program, awards funds throughout the United States for projects connecting people to forests. The goal is to create lasting change that will allow all communities, especially underserved communities, opportunities to benefit from activities on National Forest System lands or adjacent public lands. Community engagement should be at the heart of funded projects' goals and objectives, with stewardship activities as a secondary focus area. Eligible occasions for community engagement may include public lands days or cleanup days, field trips for schools or collaborative groups, outdoor skills training, Indigenous ecological practices, ceremonies or celebrations related to natural resources, trail or site ambassadors, and nature-based therapeutic activities. Projects must take place on U.S. National Forests or Grasslands or adjacent public lands, and demonstrate benefit to National Forest System lands. There will be an informational webinar for applicants on May 20, 2024. For more information go to; [National Forest Foundation: Matching Awards Program](#)

National Fish & Wildlife: Grants Enhance Habitat Restoration

Application deadline: July 11, 2024

Geographic scope: CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT, as well as parts of NY

Grant amount: Approximately \$2 million is available this year.

The Northeast Forests and Rivers Fund, a program of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, aims to restore and sustain healthy rivers, forests, and grasslands that provide habitat for diverse fish and wildlife populations. Support will be provided for projects that restore the quality and connectivity of stream and riparian habitats, improve management of forest blocks to enhance age and structural diversity, and promote hayfield management that allows for successful grassland bird breeding. Nonprofit organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, tribal governments and organizations, and educational institutions are eligible to apply. [For more information.](#)

Visit our Website

[NHACC.org](https://www.nhacc.org)

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