

CONSERVATION COMMISSION DECEMBER 2014

The Plainfield Conservation Commission (PCC) is an advisory commission to the Plainfield Select Board. This year the commission concentrated on inventorying Class VI roads, continuing the education/action campaign to control invasive species, perambulated to find the boundary monuments between Grantham and Plainfield, enjoyed the annual wildflower walk in the spring and completed the conservation of the Hanchett Brook land and the land surrounding Sky Ranch Pond.

Class VI Roads Inventory You would be surprised to find a wonderful walk on some of our Class VI Roads. The PCC continues to work on the inventory of these roads with photographs and other facts about the roads unique characteristics.

House Calls Last year, we experimented with a different way to reach all community members to educate as many as possible how to manage those pesky invasive plants. Several landowners called us (or emailed) and we came to their land to walk it and investigate the vegetation to find if it is benign or invasive. Then the landowner learned the best way to manage their unwelcome guest. This containment of the invasive plant (and also insects) is good for the survival of our native wildlife.

So, make the call (469-3399 or ferguson208a@tds.net) and we'll make an appointment to help you control (you may never eradicate) the spread of invasive species.

Wildflower Walk We saw pink lady slippers, wood ducks, evidence of beaver, learned about some invasive species, and enjoyed lots of wildflowers in the month of May! If you're interested in an adventure, join us in this annual event on the beautiful land of Dave and Sue Taylor. Dave and Sue will be our generous hosts and experienced guides again this year in May.

Conservation of Hanchett Brook Poverty Lane Orchards, owned by Steve Woods of Lebanon, NH, has recently conserved approximately 100 acres of upland forest adjacent to Hanchett Brook. This upland forest is within Plainfield's boundaries. This is a welcome addition to Plainfield's already-conserved-in-perpetuity properties for recreation, wildlife habitat, and watershed protection.

See the following photograph of the official signing ceremony between Mr. Wood, the Town of Plainfield officials and Sara Cavin of the Upper Valley Land Trust.

Donations to the easement were made by the NH Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund contributing 92% and the Town of Plainfield contributing 8% of the total cost of the easement.

There will be a walk into Hanchett Brook's forest later in the season to celebrate the conservation of this unique property. (Access to the brook from Porter Road or Black Hill Road is to be determined later.) Watch for the announcement on the town's website and Facebook site.

Monitoring Plainfield has four, NH LCIP (Land and Community Investment Program) properties that must be monitored annually. The Town of Plainfield owns the development rights (i.e., monitors the property every year to insure the property remains

in the type-of-use it was when it was conserved by the conserving landowner usually several years prior to the present).

The PCC participated in another type of monitoring this year. The boundaries of your town must be walked (aka, perambulated) periodically with the officials of the abutting towns. The purpose of this partnership is to insure no changes have occurred to the boundaries (i.e., all property markers (blazes, barbed wire fences, stone boundary walls, stone monuments, etc.)) over a designated period of time. PCCommissioner Helen Koehler was one of the volunteer perambulators this year.

Respectfully Submitted, Myra Ferguson, Chair



Hanchett Brook Project being finalized

Photo M. Marsh



Dave and Sue Taylor, with another intrepid monitor (Helen Koehler), display photographic proof of an “iron pin” marking one of the boundaries of Mud Pond.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION FUNDS YEAR END BALANCES

Forestry Maintenance Fund	01/01/14 Beg. Balance	\$18,777
	Interest earned	\$4
Balance	12/31/14	\$18,781
Conservation Commission Fund	01/01/14	\$68,624
	Current Use Penalty Income/Interest earned	\$4,718
	Hanchett Brook Project Expenditure	\$9,000
Balance	12/31/14	\$ 64,342