

**TOWN OF TUFTONBORO
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT
2011**

The Tuftonboro Conservation Commission (TCC) has had another busy and productive year. Regular recurring activities include the preliminary review and processing of numerous New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Wetlands Division applications from Tuftonboro residents, facilitating the placement of conservation easements, attendance of professional presentations and conferences that support conservation and preservation efforts in New Hampshire, and monitoring the environmental health of lakes and waterways. The Wetlands Division applications we review all involve a site visit by one of our commissioners, and when necessary, the preparation of field notes and recommendations to the NHDES.

An important part of the TCC work is monitoring water quality in Lake Winnepesaukee and Mirror Lake. We fully appreciate the work of all the volunteers that take the water samples and deliver them to a UNH laboratory for testing. The number of samples taken in Mirror Lake in 2011 is continuing to show a pristine water quality.

This year was another active one in monitoring the Wolfeboro Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Rapid Infiltration Disposal System (RWIDS). The RWIDS are experiencing more unexpected problems in 2011. Sand migrating from the side of the hill was flowing into the seep streams that have developed. Pipe has been added to the slope to move the seeps down the slope instead of washing the sand down the slope with the water. Wolfeboro will be applying for its five year ground water permit from the NHDES in 2012. The Tuftonboro Conservation Commission and its Environmental Engineer want to be involved with that process to be sure the levels of pollutants going into the Nineteen Mile Brook are at levels that will not adversely affect the delicate balance of the ecology of the brook. The last Ground Water Permit only addressed the level of pollutants for drinking water and did not address the more sensitive environment of the Brook. It would be like feeding hay, a main staple for cattle, to humans.

The Town voted to place Conservation Easements on Town land on the Great Meadow to preserve and protect it in perpetuity. The final draft with the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission's recommendations will be ready soon and on its way for approval by one of two organizations to hold the easement, then back to the Selectmen for final approval.

The 2011 workload for the NHDES for Tuftonboro residents included 19 approved permits, 2 Complete Forestry Notifications, and 15 New Permits with multiple

requests for more information and a few filed complaints. Contact any of the members of the Conservation Commission at the Town Offices or refer to the NHDES web site www.des.nh.gov/wetlands regulatory assistance regarding wetland permits.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Phelps, Chair Lloyd Wood, Co-Chairs

Dave Durnam, Jerry Light, Nancy Piper, Steve Wingate, Nancy Byrd