

What is the Conservation Commission and what does it do?

The Conservation Commission was established under NH RSA 36-A, and was adopted by town vote in 1981. The Conservation Commission is a group of volunteers appointed by the Select Board tasked with conducting the town natural resources inventories, coordinating conservation activities including environmental education, land protection, wetland evaluation, and protection of wildlife and watershed resources. The members serve three-year terms.

LISBON TOWN FOREST DESIGNATION UP FOR VOTE

The March 8 Town Meeting brings several years of hard work by the Conservation Commission to the forefront with the addition of Article 9 to the 2022 Warrant.

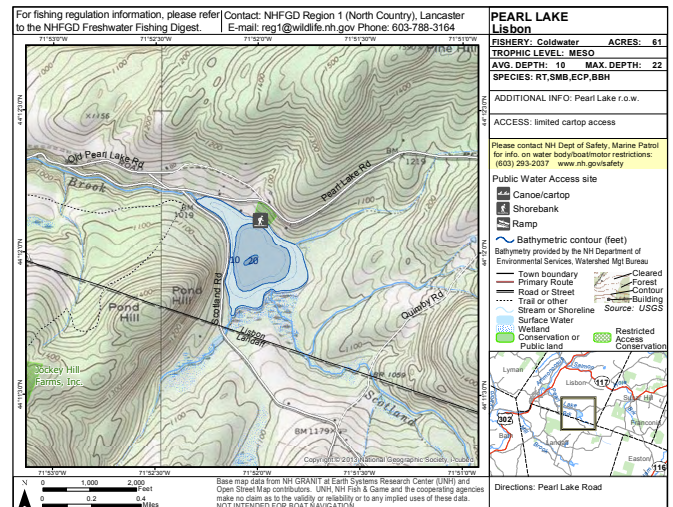


The town has owned property around Pearl Lake for decades, and with the approval of this warrant, the properties will gain

the official designation of Town Forest.

The land, 55.34 acres, (Map R40 lots 17,16,15,13 and 12) is made up of high value wetlands, grasslands, hemlock-hardwood pine, and the abundant wildlife that lives on the land and in Pearl Lake. This area has been designated as highest ranked in the biological region by NH Fish & Game Wildlife Action Plan. Designating these parcels will protect approximately 7,666 feet of shoreline on Pearl Lake which will help protect water quality.

This is really exciting for present and future townspeople of Lisbon and neighboring communities. The proposed Town Forest land is the habitat to a host of birds, fish, and mammals. There are endangered species such as the Bald Eagle that hunts on Pearl Lake and nests on the Ammonoosuc River. Other spectacular, but not



endangered birds such as Osprey, Great Blue Heron, Loon, and several species of more common birds can be found around the lake. There have been reported sightings of beaver, otter, fox, mink, fisher cats, hare, black bear, bobcat, moose, turkeys, ermine, turtles, frogs, toads, and deer to name a few. The waters support perch, bass, trout, and pickerel. The species listed are from citizen observations and are far from complete. Identifying and creating a more thorough list is an excellent community and educational opportunity for the Town Forest.

Benefits of a Town Forest:

- ★Healthy and productive forest through sustainable management
- ★Maintaining the character, use and natural value of the Pearl Lake area for current and future enjoyment
- ★Protecting the water quality of Pearl Lake
- ★Providing a platform to educate Lisbon students and residents on the natural resources in the area. Potential to serve as an outdoor classroom.
- ★Enhanced recreational activities.



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Designating the town owned land around Pearl Lake a Town Forest is a win/win for the town, and won't cause a tax increase or cost the town money.

This designation takes unmanaged land and provides a vehicle for land management in the interest of towns' people today and in the future. Part of this designation will enable the Conservation Commission to work with an ecology professional to create a management plan that will take into account the natural resources on the property including water, wildlife, and timber.

The initial forest management plan expense will be paid for from the Conservation Commission funds already in existence. Future expenses may be covered by fundraising and grant applications.

As a Town Forest, the land around Pearl Lake will continue to exhibit the natural character that the townspeople have enjoyed for decades; will be well managed for a healthy forest, wetlands, wildlife, and ecosystems; and will contribute to climate sustainability and good water quality.



With an increased pressure on natural resources this is an ideal time for Lisbon to protect this "Pearl" for all to enjoy.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION AWARDED TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE TRAINING

In October the Conservation Commission applied for and was awarded participation in the **Taking Action for Wildlife (TAFW) 2021 Community Conservation Cohort - An In-Depth Training to Protect Wildlife & Natural Resources** training program for statewide conservation commissioners and other municipal board members.

The process for acceptance was competitive and three members of the Lisbon Conservation Commission and two community members were accepted into the program.

The program provided tools to engage our community in on-the-ground actions to protect wildlife and habitats while gaining the network of fellow community volunteers from other towns.

Topics included New Hampshire's conservation landscape, wildlife and habitats, wildlife corridors, using online mappers, and community engagement. We learned how land conservation planning, land management, and land use regulations can effectively protect wildlife and natural resources in our community, and how to use our town's natural resources inventory in this work.

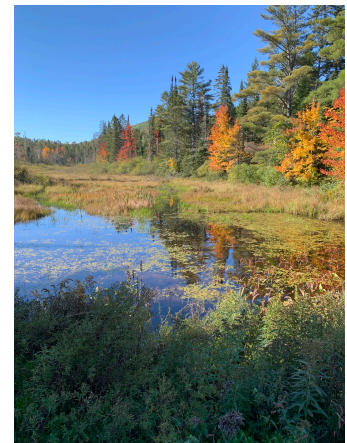
The training was held online from September - November 2021 with 2 hours and 20 minutes of training per month.

Participants have been receiving individualized assistance from the TAFW team on our goal to establish a town forest.

A big thank you to the participants of this training program. It was an excellent training program with a large time commitment for the classes and required homework.

Participant Mark Roberts says of the training The Taking Action For Wildlife Cohort has been a great experience! The two on-line sessions that stood out for me were the "Maps, Data and Action" tutorial on September 17th, and the Conservation Project Sharing event on November 5th.

The mapping lesson proved useful in helping our Lisbon team identify prime wildlife habitat in our town and in neighboring Sugar Hill.



Pg. 3, AWARD, Continued

The showcasing of conservation projects on November 5th was truly impressive. Tom Simpson did a superb job of presenting our plan for creating a town forest at Pearl Lake.

Warner New Hampshire's team is working toward establishing a pollinator meadow on an old ski slope on the Chandler Reservation. And Lebanon's Cohort group is focused on protecting the wealth of vernal pools on town lands. I was awed by the dedication, intelligence, and passion for conservation in all of the Cohort participants and teachers!

On the Trail in a Winter Wonderland

Did you know Lisbon has a Multi-use Trail maintained in the winter?

The Rail Trail is maintained in the winter months for the use of snow machines, skiers, snowshoers, mushers or if you just want to go for a walk. You can enter the trail near the New England Wire Mill and enjoy the sport of your choice along the Ammonoosuc River or take simple stroll/tour through town.

A few guidelines for all of us to ensure everyone has the opportunity to enjoy our natural resource for generations to come.

- Stay to the right and pass on the left
- Faster users yield the right of way to slower users
- All users yield to horses and mushers
- Single file when in groups and approaching other users, stay on the trail
- Be polite and a good steward of your recreational use

We encourage all sport enthusiasts to respect others while enjoying our natural resource and be courteous of all users.

The Lisbon Conservation Commission stewards and protects the town's natural resources through planning, promoting and educating to assist the town boards and the public in conservation matters. We encourage informed decision making to keep Lisbon a livable place today and for decades to come.

KEEP OUR TOWN BEAUTIFUL! MAY MARKS THE 4TH ANNUAL TRASH PICK-UP MONTH!

Keeping our town litter free is good for us and the natural world around us. Please join in

during trash pick-up month. Grab a blue bag from the Town Hall, canvas your neighborhood or anywhere you see litter, fill the blue bag and deposit at the

Transfer Station for free during the month of May. We hope you will help Lisbon shine - Lilacs and Lupines not litter!

Do you enjoy nature? Are you concerned about the environment?

Then come help maintain and protect our natural resources. Come help us work on the possibility & evolution of a Town Forest. The Conservation Commission needs your help. We meet the third Monday of each month at the Railway Station from 5:30-6:30 PM. Come to a meeting to learn more about volunteer opportunities or to become a Conservation Commissioner. If you imagine this land much the same for your children's grandchildren, then get involved. It takes our thoughtful planning now to ensure the lasting beauty of this place we call home.



Lisbon Conservation Commission Members:
 Katrine Barclay, Chair (March 2022)
 Robert Cook (March 2022)
 Rosalind Page (April 2022)
 Mark Roberts (September 2022)
 Betsy Stead, Recording Secretary (August 2022)