

**Atkinson Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**Monday May 7, 2018**  
**Atkinson Town Hall**  
Approved June 12, 2018

**Members Present:**

Paul Wainwright, Chair  
Dan Kimball  
Mark Hertrich  
Denise Legault, Vice Chair  
Scott Kukshel  
Jeff Nenart, Alternate

**Others Present:**

Brent Ebner, Hampstead Conservation Commission  
James Lavelle, Lavelle Associates  
Jean Foley  
James Foley  
Douglas Yoho  
Peter Bradshaw  
Charles Kinney  
Charles George

**1. Call to order, Attendance**

Vice Chair Wainwright called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM, Monday, May 7, 2018. Mr. Wainwright declared that a quorum was present, and that Alternate Jeff Nenart would serve as a voting member at this meeting because only 5 of the 7 regular members were present.

Vice Chair Wainwright passed around a sign-in sheet for members and guests so we have a record of who was at the meeting.

Vice Chair Wainwright asked the Commission take a moment to remember Carol Grant, who died the previous week. Carol was a founding member of the Atkinson Conservation Commission when it was formed at Town Meeting in 1974, and served as its first Chair. Carol was a strong advocate for preserving Atkinson's open spaces, and much of the Conservation land that the town currently has was obtained thanks to her work. She was very successful at getting grants and donations of land.

**2. Reorganization:**

Vice Chair Wainwright informed the Commission that now that Selectmen have approved the new appointments to the commission (attached to these minutes), members would be elected for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. He would be willing to serve as Chair. Member Legault would be willing to serve as Vice Chair and Member McVay (not present) would be willing to serve as Secretary. Vice Chair Wainwright informed the Commission that votes would be taken separately.

**Mr. Wainwright nominated Denise Legault as Vice Chair of the Atkinson Conservation Commission. Mr. Nenart seconded the nomination. All members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission present, with Denise Legault abstaining, voted in favor. Vote: 5/0/1.**

**Vice Chair Legault nominated Paul Wainwright as Chair of the Atkinson Conservation Commission. Mr. Kukshel seconded the nomination. All members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission, with Paul Wainwright abstaining, voted in favor. Vote: 5/0/1.**

Vice Chair Legault asked Mr. Wainwright if he would continue to handle the budget and he replied that he would.

**3. Review and approval of minutes: March 5, 2018**

Chair Wainwright requested a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2018 meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission as amended. Mr. Wainwright explained that he had received comments from Mr. McVay via email.

**Member Dan Kimball made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2018 meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission as amended. Member Hertrich seconded the motion. All members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission present at the March 5, 2018 meeting and the May 7, 2018 meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission voted in favor. Vote: 3/0/3.**

**4. Eagle Scout Project Status Report – Mark Hertrich:**

Scout Cooper Howson was unable to attend. Chair Wainwright stated that he would put him on the agenda for the June meeting. Member Hertrich stated that he would inform Scout Howson.

Member Hertrich informed the Commission that Scout Josh Flieder would like to pursue a project. It would be a few months because he still needs time to get some more merit badges. Chair Wainwright informed Member Hertrich that there is an opportunity to blaze the trail at the Slade Town Forest. Member Hertrich asked if there would be more options.

Member Hertrich also informed the Commission that there was more talk about a shed by the Community Center. Chair Wainwright stated that Member Hertrich could discuss this with the Forest Society when we meet with them at our June meeting.

**5. Trail Maintenance updates and discussion: blazing methods**

Chair Wainwright informed the Commission that he has walked the trails in the Sawyer Land with Mr. Nenart and Mr. Krause. Mr. Nenart informed the Commission that he has done some trail clearing. Chair Wainwright informed the Commission that Scouts had done some clearing of the trails near Woodlock Park. Member Hertrich informed the Commission that he got an

email stating that everything went well but they did not do any blazing, and also that they appreciated the opportunity to serve.

Chair Wainwright said that he and Vice Chair Legault took a walk along the Marshall Land, which is near Hampstead. The trail looked in good condition. Then they went to the Stickney Land, which has a lovely but relatively unknown trail that goes along Big Island Pond. Evidently there are neighbors that use this and take care of it. Guest Doug Yoho stated that he uses this trail regularly.

Chair Wainwright explained that the Sawmill trails have been interrupted by two developments that have cut these trails into three disjoint sections. The Commission has secured trail easements over the Sawmill Ridge development, which is on the border with Hampstead, but that easements yet need to be negotiated with the Page Farm development. He invited members to join him on a trail walk on those trails, entering from Woodlawn.

There is one other piece of land called the Judge Marshall land which is behind Industrial Way. The right-of-way to this land was moved several years ago, and theoretically is at the cul de sac at the end of Industrial Way. However, Chair Wainwright could not locate it when he was there several weeks ago. Mr. Wainwright said that he has asked Lavelle and Associates, who surveyed the land when it was first subdivided, to locate and mark the town's right-of-way. Developing trails on the Judge Marshall land could be another Scout opportunity.

Jim Lavelle mentioned that it is possible to access the right-of-way at the end of the cul de sac by walking along the edge of the wetland and go left.

The Commission discussed blazing materials. Chair Wainwright showed some fabric blazing materials that were obtained from an awning manufacturer by Member Dennis Krause. These were used 12 years ago to blaze the trails on the Sawyer land, and are still in relatively good shape. They should be nailed into the trees with aluminum nails in case these trees are ever harvested for lumber. Brent Ebner showed a cell phone photo of a painted PVC material that the Hampstead Conservation Commission is using. Chair Wainwright suggested that the Atkinson Conservation Commission also use the PVC method for trials that are in the tri-town area, but that "Dennis Krause method" be used elsewhere on Atkinson's trails. Guest Yoho said that the Stickney land is currently blazed with blue spray paint, but this has faded and is difficult to see.

## **6. Request to purchase Conservation land, Map 4 Lot 46**

Mr. Charles George appeared before the Commission regarding his desire to purchase the piece of Town Forest shown on the tax map as Map 4, Lot 46. This land was a gift from Ruth McPherson, and is the 4 acre parcel on the east side of Main Street just south of the Maple Avenue intersection. It is an integral part of Atkinson's Scenic Byway. Carol Grant was instrumental in getting town and state recognition of this Byway.

Mr. George reiterated that he would like to purchase the land and put it in current use. Mr. George said that is in poor repair. He would like to purchase it, add it to his property and clean

it up. Mr. George informed the Commission that he owns land nearby and if he were to deed it, it would be in such a way that it could not be developed. Mr. George has subdivided his 15-acre lot which abuts this piece of Town Forest. Access to this 4-acre parcel from Route 121 is very steep.

Chair Wainwright informed Mr. George that the Conservation Commission would have to agree to the sale, then it would have to go to the Selectmen and Town Meeting for a vote.

Member Kimball disagreed with selling the land, even if it is placed in current use with deed restrictions. Mr. Kimball pointed out that selling land is not part of the Conservation Commission's mission statement.

Mr. Kukshel stated that the land in question is now part of the Scenic Byway. Mr. George stated that he would clean up the dead trees and fallen branches. Mr. George stated there are no valuable trees on the property.

Member Hertrich asked what the benefit to the Town would be. Mr. George thinks the property is an eyesore. Mr. George explained that the benefit to the Town would be that the property would be cleaned up. He thinks it would cost him \$35,000. There is a stone wall at the property line with Mr. George's land, and another near the road, so it is fairly easy to visualize the property in question.

Member Kukshel mentioned that this land is part of the Town Forest, not a public park, and that the "eyesore" that Mr. George describes is actually great habitat for animals and birds.

None of the Members voiced support for selling this piece of conservation land.

Chair Wainwright told Mr. George that, based on the opinions voiced by the Commission members, he did not think Mr. George had enough votes for his proposal to be approved. Mr. George stated that he would withdraw his request rather than ask for a vote.

Chair Wainwright stated that the Conservation Commission will do a site walk of the land in question on Saturday, June 2, 2018. [Editor's note: this site walk took place on June 3.] He will announce the time and meeting place as the date gets closer, and will post the site walk as an official meeting of the Commission and thus be open to the public.

## **7. Proposed Land Swap (Map 20 Lot 13) on Route 111**

Chair Wainwright distributed a map describing the originally-proposed land swap with Ruby Holdings Inc., and a different potential swap with Mr. Charles Kinney. Mr. Kinney was in attendance for the discussion, while Mr. Fred Thompson of Ruby Holdings was not. Chair Wainwright stated that he sent Mr. Thompson an email with the agenda, and subsequently called him to inform him that the land swap would be part of the agenda. He did not receive a reply from Mr. Thompson.

Chair Wainwright reviewed the background of this proposed land swap, which has been in

discussion for more than three years.

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Bob Allen, through their company, Ruby Holdings, would like to swap a piece of wetland on property they are developing for the Town-owned land on Map 20, Lot 13.

The Town's land was acquired from DOT for \$1 plus closing costs in the 1980s when Route 111 was relocated. The deed stipulates that the land is to be under the supervision and control of the Atkinson Conservation Commission. The DOT also placed deed restrictions on it such that the land must always be owned by a New Hampshire municipality, and that it must be open for passive recreation by the public. In order for the Town of Atkinson to trade the land, the Conservation Commission must agree, the deed restrictions would need to be removed by the State, and the Town would need to get a Town Meeting Warrant Article approving the sale or trade.

In June 2014 the Conservation Commission voted to proceed with the trade. At Town Meeting in 2015 there was the necessary warrant article [2015-8], which passed. At that time the Commission also obtained State approval. However, in 2017 the DOT stated they wanted \$106,100 for the property, so the Town would have to purchase it from the DOT before they could swap it. Since the 2015 warrant article stated that there would be no cost to the town, the trade was assumed dead.

Chair Wainwright also informed the Commission that, in a letter from DOT dated May 30, 2017, the State gave the Commission 30 days to respond whether we were interested in proceeding. There was no reply from the Conservation Commission, so obviously that deadline has expired.

Chair Wainwright wanted to know if there was interest to revive the proposed trade, and requested comments from the Commission.

There was discussion. Mr. Nenart feels the Town does not get a benefit for swapping wetlands for upland buildable land, especially if it will cost the Town \$106,100. Member Kimball agreed.

None of the Members expressed support for this trade in its current form.

**Member Kimball made a motion to reverse our June 2, 2014 vote that approved the proposed land swap (Map 20 Lot 13 for Map 16 lot 9) on Route 111, and also to cease all further attempts for the proposed land swap. Vice Chair Legault seconded the motion. All members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission present voted in favor. Vote: 6/0/0.**

Mr. Charles Kinney then came before the Commission, and Mr. Kinney made the statements contained in this paragraph. He explained that he attempted to purchase the same property in 1982 when it was put up as excess property. At that time, the Town had decided to declare it open land. Mr. Kinney has approached the Town in the past to purchase it and was informed that the Town would need permission from the State to sell it. Permission from the State to

sell has been granted, just not to him. The land in question (Map 20 Lot 13) adjoins his five acres (Map 20 Lot 16), which he claimed was “surveyed” for prime wetlands several years ago, which he claimed lowered the value of his property. The addition of the land in question would add to his land. Mr. Kinney also owns the property (Map 20 Lot 16-1) on the other side of the street. Mr. Kinney informed the Commission that he has no access to Map 20 Lot 16-1 since it is surrounded by conservation land.

Mr. Kukshel stated that he feels Map 20 Lot 13 is a valuable piece of property and may eventually become commercial. There is the issue of the prime wetland in that vicinity [the Hall Farm Pond] as well, which the Commission needs to protect. In his opinion, the parcel is worth much more than \$106,100. The Town could sell, trade or barter it for much more than \$106,100.

None of the Members voiced support for selling this land to Mr. Kinney.

Chair Wainwright stated that he did not think Mr. Kinney had the Commission votes to approve pursuing his proposed purchase at this time, and Mr. Kinney agreed and did not request a vote. Mr. Kinney stated he would keep in touch.

**8. Lavelle & Associates, variance applications:**

**a. Foley, Map 22 Lot 12 – 5 Chase Island Rd.**

Mr. Lavelle came before the Commission to represent the applicants, James and Jean Foley, who were present at the meeting. Mr. Lavelle informed the Commission that the applicant owns six acres (Map 22 Lot 12), and is proposing to subdivide the parcel in to two parcels. Chair Wainwright stated that the tax map shows 8 acres. Mr. Lavelle informed the Commission that the initial survey was done by Lavelle Associates in 1994 and the property is six acres. This planned subdivision would be done as a lot line adjustment. They will be doing an equal area lot line adjustment with Map 22 Lot 5 on Hemlock Heights Road in order to give the Foleys easier access to their upland acreage on the lot on the east side of the subdivision. There is sufficient acreage for a two-acre lot. The Commission discussed an existing right of way to the east of Map 22 Lot 5. That right of way is property of the Hemlock Heights Association. The Foleys are next to it and would not be using the right of way. There is no wetland issue. The property abuts Atkinson Conservation land. The applicant proposes to reduce frontage on a pre-existing nonconforming lot (Map 22 Lot 5) from 175 feet to 150 feet. It would still be the size of two of the original lots in the Hemlock Heights subdivision.

Because of the amount of wetland and because it is a two-acre zone, there is only about two acres of buildable land per lot.

Chair Wainwright asked if the applicant would be asking for wetlands setbacks and the applicant replied no, the house would be over 100 feet from the wetlands. The applicant estimates that it is 200 feet from the road to the proposed building site.

Vice Chair Legault informed the Commission that several weeks ago she and Chair Wainwright walked the Conservation Land that abuts the proposed subdivision.

The applicant commented that the three-acre lot overlooks Big Island Pond and he would like to build his retirement home there.

There were no further comments. There will be no site walk because there is no wetland setback variance being applied for, and therefore the Conservation Commission does not have jurisdiction over any aspect of this application.

**b. Jones, Map 3 Lot 23 – 26 Sleepy Hollow Rd.**

Mr. Lavelle presented the application to the Commission on behalf of Robert and Sandra Jones, who were not in attendance at the meeting. Mr. Lavelle showed the Commission the original subdivision plan from 1959. The lot is 4.32 acres in total. There is quite a bit of wetland. The applicant is proposing to create a lot north of his current house, it will be .7 of an acre, small but bigger than many of the lots in the neighborhood. The proposed subdivision would need a variance for frontage and area. However, it would be in keeping with the neighborhood. Mr. Lavelle informed the Commission that Bruce Gilday did the mapping for the wetland. There is a 100-foot setback to the wetlands so no wetland setbacks issues are involved. Mr. Lavelle stated that it should pass State subdivision approval. The only variance would be for frontage and area. Diminishing the frontage would not result in overcrowding. Member Kimball asked what was beyond the stone wall and Mr. Lavelle replied that the proposed subdivision backs up on the Sawyer Town Forest.

Chair Wainwright asked the members if there were any objections. There were none.

There will be no site walk because there is no wetland setback variance being applied for, and therefore the Conservation Commission does not have jurisdiction over any aspect of this application.

Chair Wainwright asked Mr. Lavelle if a letter of approval from the Conservation Commission was needed for either or both properties. Chair Wainwright stated he would write one letter for both applications.

**9. Brent Ebner, Hampstead Conservation Commission:**

**a. Multi-town Conservation Commission issues**

Two things other commission are doing, a beginner bird walk and the other is wetland buffers talk. Mr. Ebner informed the Commission that Hampstead uses volunteers from various schools and around town. They do mushroom foraging, sign painting, bike riding and other volunteer work for the Conservation Commission.

Hampstead recently passed an ordinance prohibiting ATVs on Conservation land with a maximum fine of up to \$1,000. They are putting up signs, and the ordinance gives the Hampstead police the authority to arrest violators. Chair Wainwright suggested a warrant article. Mr. Ebner said he would provide the warrant article that Hampstead used to approve the ordinance.

All trails in the tri-town area have been cleared.

- b. Chambers-Fila Town Forest parking update – Chair Wainwright informed the new members of the Commission that Mr. Ebner has purchased a lot just to the north of the Chambers-Fila Town Forest and is in the process of exercising his right to use a deeded right-of-way over the access lane to the Chambers-Fila Town Forest. Mr. Ebner will be allowing a parking along his driveway to provide access to the trails in the Town Forest. A kiosk could be built, which would be a good Eagle Scout project.
- c. Emergency responder mapping update – should be done this week and sent off to Neatline Associates

Chair Wainwright explained to new members that there is a three-town effort (Atkinson, Hampstead, and Plaistow) to map and mark the trails for First Responder access. There was a serious accident on one of the trails a year or so ago, and it was difficult for First Responders to find the injured person. Mr. Ebner explained the marking and mapping system to the Commission.

Member Hertrich asked if there could be a scout project and Mr. Ebner replied that a kiosk could be a scout project. He also suggested that the Commission provide a gate to discourage access by ATVs while allowing access to First Responders.

#### **10. Conservation Commission Mission Statement:**

Member Kukshel informed the Commission that the draft Mission Statement looks good.

Chair Wainwright asked for a motion.

**Vice Chair Legault made a motion for the Conservation Commission to approve the Mission Statement. Member Hertrich seconded the motion. All members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission present voted in favor. Vote: 6/0/0.**

A copy of the approved Mission Statement is attached to these minutes.



Member Kukshel asked if all Conservation land is Town Forest. Chair Wainwright replied no, but an effort was made several years ago [warrant article 2013-7] to include a number of smaller parcels of Conservation land as Town Forest.

Chair Wainwright informed the Commission that there are RSAs that protect property owners from lawsuits if the land is open for recreation or hunting, so long as there is no fee charged by the land owner. This would protect the Town as well. [See RSA 508:14]

## **11. Other Business**

### **a. Map of LWCF lands**

Several months ago, Selectman Chair Baldwin gave Chair Wainwright a letter from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) regarding land given to the Town. Mr. Wainwright has researched all the land they helped to purchase and color coded it on a copy of the town's tax maps. There are two kinds of LWCF land: land that they helped acquire, and land on which they helped fund recreational facilities. Chair Wainwright has made a digitized tax map of the entire town so he was able to color it in. They do a periodic inspection of all their lands every five years, and the next inspection is due in 2019.

### **b. Page Farm land purchase update**

Chair Wainwright explained that Member Dziechowski worked hard to purchase land for Conservation from the developer and was not successful. Chair Wainwright spoke with the developer, Michael Green of Green & Company, last week and they definitely do not want to donate any of the land. The price to purchase would be close to \$500,000, and they would need a quick commitment. While there is close to \$400,000 in the Conservation fund, Chair Wainwright feels that the money should be augmented with grant money and would be better spent on other projects that have a longer lead time. The Commission needs to look long range and to get grants.

The Commission will work on getting easements to trails over the Page Farm project.. Green and Company has been good about granting trail easements on other projects. Mr. Green stated that he would talk to the other owners. Guest Yoho stated he knows the trails from the Hampstead end. On the south, the trail comes out at the end of Woodlawn Avenue.

### **c. Grants Workshops update**

Chair Wainwright has been to two grants workshops in the past month. One was the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). They have about 3.5 million for grants this year, but proposals would be due in June. The other is the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund. There was more than a \$300 million judgment against Exxon Mobile for the MtBE contamination they caused in the state.

After attorney's fees, \$288 million went into a trust fund to award grants to protect open space that protects ground water replenishment, and to build water system infrastructure. This year they will be awarding about \$6 million, but the deadline for grant applications is in August. Mr. Wainwright feels that the Town could qualify for both grants, but the timeframes for this year's grant cycles are too soon for us to line up a land deal. He feels the Commission needs to look at a land deal that we could use in grant applications next year. Rockingham Planning Commission possibly could assist as well.

**d. Equipment Inventory update**

Member Kimball has pulled together a spreadsheet of Conservation equipment inventory. Member Kukshel mentioned he donated a push trimmer (the "DR Trimmer") to the Conservation Commission several years ago, and the last he knew he believes that Alternate Dziechowski has it. It probably needs repair. Mr. Kukshel also has a Stihl trimmer in his garage.

Member Kimball informed the Commission that he sent everyone an electronic copy of the spread sheet and members can list any Commission equipment in their possession.

**e. Field Mowing and Troop 9 Encampment**

Chair Wainwright asked if Troop 9 would be camping at Bonin field this year and Member Hertrich will ask and send an email.

**f. Emerald Ash Borer Update**

The State cut down the affected trees in the Sawyer Town forest today, and the Road Agent will be out to chip the trees tomorrow. Chair Wainwright explained the Emerald Ash Borer situation for the new members.

**12. Next Meeting(s) & Adjournment**

The next regular meeting of the Conservation Commission is Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 7:30 PM. Chair Wainwright stated that there will possibly be a site walk June 2, 2018. [Editor's note: it took place June 3, 2018]

Chair Wainwright requested a motion to adjourn.

**Vice Chair Legault made a motion to adjourn the May 7, 2018 meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission at 9:10 PM. Member Hertrich seconded the motion. All members of the Atkinson Conservation Commission present voted in favor. Vote: 6/0/0.**

**TOWN OF ATKINSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**21 Academy Avenue**  
**Atkinson, New Hampshire 03811**

May 21, 2018

William Cass, P.E.  
Assistant Commissioner  
New Hampshire Department of Transportation  
PO Box 483, 7 Hazen Drive  
Concord NH 03302-0482

Dear William –

This is a long-overdue reply to the letter from Philip J. Miles, dated May 30, 2017, concerning the assessed value of the parcel known as Atkinson Tax Map 20 Lot 13, which has been the subject of considerable discussion concerning a proposed land swap for another parcel, known as Atkinson Tax Map 16 Lot 9.

During the Atkinson Conservation Commission's meeting on May 7, 2018, we reviewed the long history of this proposed land swap, and voted to reverse our original decision to approve the swap (June, 2014), and instead to abandon efforts to complete the deal. Upon careful review, the Commission no longer sees any value to the Town of Atkinson in this proposed deal, and will cease our attempts to complete it.

I know that a lot of work on all sides has gone into making this deal happen, and that it will be a disappointment to many. However, we feel it is best for the Town to drop the idea.

Sincerely,



Paul Wainwright

Chair, Atkinson Conservation Commission  
email: [conservation@atkinson-nh.gov](mailto:conservation@atkinson-nh.gov)

Copy to :

Sue Coppeta, Town of Atkinson Planning and Zoning Administrator  
Atkinson Selectmen  
Fred Thompson  
Charles Kinney

**TOWN OF ATKINSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**21 Academy Avenue**  
**Atkinson, New Hampshire 03811**

May 15, 2018

Atkinson Zoning Board of Adjustment  
21 Academy Avenue  
Atkinson, NH 03811

Re: Two Variance Applications:

- Map 3 Lot 23 (26 Sleepy Hollow Road)
- Map 22 Lot 12 (5 Chase Island Road)

Dear Chairman –

At the May 7, 2018 meeting of the Atkinson Conservation Commission, Mr. James Lavelle of Lavelle Associates appeared before the Commission to brief us on the two above-referenced variance applications that are expected to come before the Atkinson Zoning Board of Adjustment on June 13, 2018. In both cases, these are requests to subdivide an existing lot. While there may be other Zoning issues for your Board to consider relative to these applications, as presented neither application involved wetland crossings or setback variance requests. Therefore, since the Conservation Commission has no jurisdiction concerning other Zoning matters, therefore it has no comment about the merits of either application.

Our only suggestion would be, should the ZBA be inclined to approve either of these applications, that language be included that would make your approval contingent on not coming back to the ZBA in the future to request a wetland setback variance.

Sincerely,



Paul Wainwright,  
Chair, Atkinson Conservation Commission  
email: [conservation@atkinson-nh.gov](mailto:conservation@atkinson-nh.gov)

Copy to :

Sue Coppeta, Town of Atkinson Planning and Zoning Administrator

**TOWN OF ATKINSON CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**21 Academy Avenue**  
**Atkinson, New Hampshire 03811**

**Mission Statement**

Approved May 7, 2018

The Atkinson Conservation Commission was established by vote at Town Meeting in March of 1974 (Article 1974-23), and operates under the provisions of RSA 36-A. Our mission is to:

- Provide a focal point within the town for environmental concerns. Be an advocate for the conservation of our natural environment, and raise public awareness of the benefits of open space in our town.
- Serve as an advisory board to the NH State Wetlands Bureau and the Atkinson Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment for permitting and variance issues.
- Manage the Town Forests, as authorized by RSA 31:112 and numerous Town Meeting votes, including but not limited to periodic selective logging, invasive species control, and establishment of public use regulations.
- Inspire, organize, encourage, advise, and educate conservation-minded residents to help maintain the town's conservation trails, and provide signage, blazes, maps, and interpretive markers to facilitate the public's use and enjoyment of our open spaces.
- Actively seek out opportunities to further protect our dwindling open spaces and groundwater resources, including but not limited to purchasing land, or conservation easements to land. Where possible, look for grants to augment our town's Conservation Fund.
- Help town residents understand wetland zoning and state regulations, and advise homeowners with questions about their property, especially those private lands that abut conservation lands.
- Support Scout Troup 9 and similar organizations by providing opportunities, guidance, and modest funding for Eagle Scout and other conservation-related public service projects.