

HARTLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION 1989 Report to the Town

Background

The Hartland Conservation Commission was established by the voters at the 1989 Town Meeting. Nine members were appointed by the Selectmen and the Commission held its first meeting in July. The Commission adopted by-laws, which describe its purposes and the way it will conduct its business. The purposes can be summarized as follows: to inventory the Town's natural and cultural resources; to work to protect these resources; to increase awareness of conservation goals; to cooperate with all levels of government and groups with similar concerns.

Summary of Activities

The Commission has focused on several activities: 1) getting organized; 2) getting educated about conservation issues and actions; 3) beginning a natural and cultural resources inventory; 4) applying for an Act 200 grant to promote citizen participation in local conservation and planning issues; and 5) assisting the State, Upper Valley Land Trust, and the Nature Conservancy in the protection of the Green Acres Farm in North Hartland.

Recent activity has focused on citizen participation and the Green Acres Farm project. Citizen Participation: The town has received \$7,600 from the State to encourage citizen participation in local planning and conservation issues. Funding will also be applied to purchase mapping equipment and supplies. The Commission is undertaking two major projects with these funds. 1) Creating a local newspaper, "Common Ground," to provide a forum for Hartland residents to express their views on these issues. Letters are encouraged! 2) Providing funding and assistance to local groups that wish to sponsor meetings on conservation and planning issues. Green Acres Farm: Ruth Shumway has agreed to sell the development rights to her property. The Vermont Department of Agriculture, the Upper Valley Land Trust, and the Town would be "co-holders" of these rights and would ensure that the land remains in agricultural use even if Ruth sells the property. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Board has granted \$142,155 for this project, with the condition that \$15,000 be raised locally. As of this writing, the Commission is working to raise at least \$10,000 through private donation, and has proposed a warrant article to raise the remaining \$5,000 through taxes. A more detailed description of the project will be available at Town Meeting.

As of this writing, the Commission intends to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, at Martin Memorial Library. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted in Damon Hall. To verify meeting dates and location, and for further information, call Geoff Dates at 436-2544.

Commission Members as of December 31, 1989:

Dorothy Cummings
Geoff Dates, *Chairman*
Charles Day
Charles Marrin *Treasurer*
Gloria Merritt, *Clerk*
Philip Nothnagle, *Planning Commission Representative*
Tim Rockwood, *Vice Chairman*
Carol Stratton
Michael Weinberger