

2008
Town Report

Hartland Conservation Commission

Members/Term expiration

Amber Boland	1-April-2011
Guy Crosby	1-April-2011
Dean Greenberg	1-April-2009
Forrest Hammond	1-April-2010
Ken McWilliams	1-April-2009
Cordie Merritt	1-April-2009
Natalie Starr Co-chair	1-April-2011
Mike VanBuren	1-April-2009
Jennifer Waite Co-chair	1-April-2011

The Hartland Conservation Commission meets at Damon Hall on the second Wednesday of every month. Community members and interested parties are always welcome to attend, and get involved.

Our major emphasis for 2008 has been working with the Upper Valley Land Trust to finalize a conservation easement on 67 acres at Rice Road and U.S. 5. This easement will help to preserve the rural character of the entrance to Hartland from I-91, and conserve local agricultural land. We have about \$17,000 left to raise toward the project cost of over \$218,000 and continue to look for any donations (all tax deductible through the Hartland Conservation Trust Fund c/of the Town Treasurer).

Another Commission emphasis continues to be water quality in local rivers and streams. Commission members have sampled Lull's Brook in the spring and fall leading to four years of E coli bacteria data, and two years of phosphorus data (see graphs to the right). Data help indicate the health of Lull's Brook as well as the presence of livestock manure, fertilizers, and septic system failure. The medium sample for Total Phosphorus was .05 mg/liter.

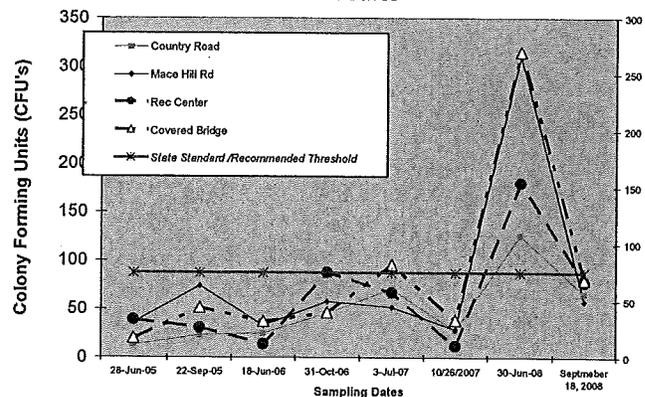


Cordie Merritt taking a water sample from Lull's Brook

The Commission, led by Coride Merritt and Dean Greenburg, is also part of a major EPA assessment of the entire Connecticut River's water quality. Four sites in Vermont and six in New Hampshire were monitored twice weekly last summer to assess for the safety of swimmers, boaters and fisherpeople contacting the water.

Other Commission activities this year included: assessment of the Town forest for sustainable timber growth and harvest; establishment of walking and biking trails on Town land; invasive plant control around Foster Meadow; commenting on the Planning Commission's draft land use ordinance; participating in the Basin 10 Watershed Council (Ottawaquechee River); working with the Town's energy committee; and supporting local and regional efforts to evaluate and support wildlife habitat, corridors and connectivity between Town borders.

Lull's Brook Water Quality:
E Coli Results



Lull's Brook Water Quality
Phosphorus

