

Hartland Conservation Commission

2011 has proved to be a very memorable year. Spring floods, Irene and a variety of other activities have kept this commission busy. For the sixth year we have collected and analyzed water samples from Lull's Brook. While long term data is important, a more immediate benefit is determining if the brook is safe for recreational activities. In general it is safe, but serious consideration should be made before entering the brook immediately after heavy rains.

After a very wet spring the town expended considerable time and expense to remove debris from the newly acquired Sumner's Falls property. The Conservation Commission has joined with the Hartland Nature Club to begin an assessment of the flora and fauna existing on the land.



We encourage any resident with suggestions as to how the town can make the most use of this asset to make us aware of your ideas. Tropical Storm Irene effectively stopped progress on the assessment as upward of three feet of sediment was left along the Connecticut River shoreline. She also left a trail of detritus that will have to be removed.

Micah Heaney has completed a walking trail through the town's 17 acre parcel near the elementary school as part of the requirements for his Eagle Scout award. A great deal of planning and preparation

resulted in the building of several bridges, stone work and trail drainage. The Commission has awarded him the Conservation Award for his work on this project. Hopefully residents and students alike will appreciate this asset due to improved accessibility.

Ideas were suggested for possible uses of the town land behind the "Park and Ride" at exit 9 off interstate 91. One was to construct hiking/biking trails on the parcel. A second was to put up a community solar array at the location. It may be possible that these two suggestions will not be mutually exclusive.

Following up from last year's planting along Lulls Brook the town allowed Trout Unlimited and this group to place a sign at the location in recognition of the work done at the site. After the effects of Irene it seems very likely that our plantings were quite successful in alleviating damage to the town soccer field.

Some other activities we have been involved in include Green-up Day, Old Home Day, rebuilding the Conservation Trust Fund and coordinating with the Linking Lands Alliance to make our community wildlife friendly.

We meet at Damon Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 7PM. Anyone interested in learning more of our work or having suggestions for us to consider is encouraged to contact a member.

Members	term expires
Natalie Starr (co-chair)	April 2014
Jennifer Waite (co-chair)	April 2014
Amber Boland	April 2012
Guy Crosby	April 2014
Dean Greenberg	April 2013
Cordie Merritt	April 2013
Bill Stack	April 2014