



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970
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53rd Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions
November 4, 2023 | Pembroke, NH

Session C - 1:30 - 2:30PM

1C

KNOW YOUR NATURAL RESOURCES —USE YOUR NRI!

Jeffry Littleton, Conservation Ecologist Moosewood Ecological LLC

You can't protect it all! How do you decide what to prioritize? A natural resources inventory (NRI) provides a scientific basis to support your natural resources protection and land conservation decisions. Learn what data and information is needed for an NRI and what is new. How do you determine what you have for natural resources? How do you prioritize what to protect? How do you get started, update, or implement an NRI? How can the NRI and the natural resources chapter in your master plan work together? We will address these and other questions you may have – be prepared for an interactive discussion.

2C

RESTORING STREAMS NATURALLY WITH WOOD

Donna Hepp, Belknap and Carroll County Conservation Districts
and the State Conservation Committee

One of the best ways to protect water quality and improve habitat in streams and lakes comes from following nature's example. Some NH County Conservation Districts are working with conservation commissions, watershed groups, and landowners to improve streams by adding wood. This work mimics what happens in nature when a tree falls across a stream. Wood is placed and secured to slow stormwater which reduces potential for flooding and soil erosion. Wood helps capture sediment traveling downstream, and creates pools and habitat to support eastern brook trout and other aquatic species. Belknap County has demonstration projects in Alton, Gilford, Meredith, and Sanbornton.

3C

BIOBLITZ 101

Haley Andrezzi and Charlotte Thompson, UNH Extension

Are you looking for ways to engage your community? Do you want more information about the natural resources in your town? A BioBlitz is a species scavenger hunt where volunteers help find and record data on wild living things in a certain area for a set amount of time. These events can help build our understanding of the natural world, detect invasive species, educate community members – and they’re fun! Join us for guidance on planning, useful ideas, and additional resources to support your efforts organizing and implementing a BioBlitz.

4C

HOW EAST KINGSTON PASSED IT’S CONSERVATION BOND

Vicki Brown, East Kingston Conservation Commission

Despite a nor’easter on March 14, two-thirds (65%) of East Kingston voters approved a \$4 million bond to protect open space via conservation easements. In this session, you’ll learn how town residents came together, looked to the future, and supported such a worthy goal. Vicki J. Brown will share East Kingston Conservation Commission’s strategy – which changed midstream! – as well as specific tactical elements of the education and outreach campaign, which started nearly one year before voting day. Ultimately it was ongoing outreach, relevant messaging, and multiple tactics that resulted in approval.

5C

ROADWAY ADAPTATION: AN ENTRY POINT FOR CLIMATE PLANNING

Suzanne Nienaber, Southern NH Planning Commission

The functionality and reliability of the transportation network is a priority issue for every community. The Southern NH Planning Commission (SNHPC) has found that the topic of roadway adaptation offers a strategic entry point for bringing diverse stakeholders together to address pressing climate concerns. Following an inaugural spring 2023 climate planning workshop, SNHPC is now developing a roadway adaptation toolkit scheduled for release this fall. At this session, Principal Planner Suzanne Nienaber will provide an overview of toolkit content, with a particular focus on nature-based solutions. The session will include facilitated discussions on how the toolkit can be used to jumpstart critical conversations, set local implementation priorities, and lay the foundation for advancing broader, multi-faceted resiliency goals.

6C

COMMUNITY SCALE SOLAR & CONSERVATION - HAND IN HAND

Beth McGuinn and Mark Zankel, ReVision Energy

Conservation can be many things – protecting wetlands and wildlife habitat, changing to LED lightbulbs, driving an electric car, and getting solar panels. But what about solar panels in the landscape? In this workshop, you'll learn about different kinds of solar, criteria for siting for community solar. Learn how your conservation commissions can support community solar, and how solar development can support conservation.