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NHACC December 2022 Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!



Happy Winter Solstice



On this shortest day of the year may you let the light in and take time to enjoy nature's promise of Spring. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season as you celebrate with family and friends.

CCs in the News

The Rindge Conservation Commission

The Rindge Conservation Commissions completed a series of hikes with a full moon walk in Converse Meadows. This yearly night hike was held this year in the town's conservation "crown jewel," a 240-acre easement with 2 miles of trails which was saved from development in 2004. To learn about future hikes or Conservation Commission activities, send email to rindgeconcom@town.rindge.nh.us. [Read the article here.](#)

The Hampton Conservation Commission

The Hampton Conservation Commission publishes a quarterly newsletter titled Conservation Talk. The newsletter features articles on the Clean Water Act, Leave No Trace practices and a marsh ditch remediation project. To read the newsletter go to the [Hampton CC website](#).

East Kingston Conservation Commission

The East Kingston Conservation Commission held a fundraiser to help restore the stream bank on the Powwow River. The commission has plans to restore the river bank using natural materials and native plants. If you would like to support the project you can purchase a brick for the path or make a donation directly to to Powwow Project, East Kingston Conservation Commission, [24 Depot Road, East Kingston, NH 03827](#). [Read more.](#)

The Atkinson Conservation Commission

The Atkinson Conservation Commission encourages everyone to purchase a real tree this year to help keep land in a more natural condition that provides wildlife habitat and helps the local economy. To learn more about the difference between real and artificial Christmas trees, see the article in the [Carriage Towne News](#).

Education & Training Opportunities

NHACC Wetlands Training Series

This training course is designed to help conservation commissions develop an efficient and effective response to state wetlands permit applications. Wetlands are protected under state law in accordance with the [Fill and Dredge in Wetlands Act \(RSA 482-A\)](#). On a municipal level, only a conservation commission has the power to "intervene" or provide comments on an application to the Wetlands Bureau to allow for local review of the proposal. The training is a progressive seven-part series of programs that include five online training sessions and two in-person workshops. The Zoom programs will be recorded and available to registrants.

Introduction to Wetlands

Friday, January 27, 2023

12 to 1:30 pm presented on Zoom

Rick Van de Poll, CWS, and Barbara Richter, NHACC

This introductory program will help participants become familiar with resources and terminology used in wetlands identification. The session will provide participants with a basic understanding of wetland functions and values. This course is the foundation of the training series and will help commissioners who are new to the wetlands permit review process. Topics covered in the program will include:

- The importance of protecting wetlands and wetlands functions and values
- Identification of wetlands, basic hydrology, soils, and plants
- Overview of wetlands types, ecology, and classification
- Resources to help identify the types of wetlands

[Register Here](#)

Wetlands Laws and Clarification of Local, State, and Federal Jurisdiction

Friday, February 24, 2023

12 to 1:30 pm presented on Zoom

Sandy Crystall, PWS, and Rick Van de Poll, CWS

This session will provide an overview of the federal, state, and local regulations and will help conservation commission members determine what agency has authority in each jurisdiction.

The program will cover **RSA 482-A** and NH Administrative Rule Chapter **Env-Wt 100-900**, an overview of NH's permit process, and the timelines required in the review processes.

Participants will learn about the various types of permits, what activities require a Fill and Dredge permit, and how conservation commissions can provide comments and suggestions to NH DES. Participants will learn the difference between state and local authorities and which has authority and responsibility over regulating wetlands uses. Topics covered in include:

- Delineation and classification of State jurisdictional areas
- The role of DES in the wetland permit review process
- Overview of the Army Corp General Permit
- When NH DES wetlands mitigation is required
- Local regulations and how your commission may be involved

[Register Here](#)

Upcoming Programs in the Wetlands Training Series

The training is designed as an introductory seven-part series of programs that include five online training sessions and two in-person workshops. The Zoom programs will be recorded and available to registrants. We encourage participants to attend all seven programs to fully benefit from the progression of topics.

NH DES On-line GIS Mapping Tools

Presented on Zoom in early **March**

DES Rules and How the Permit Review Process Works

Presented on Zoom on Friday, March 31, 2023

Introduction to Wetland Assessment -- Classroom Foundation

2023 Presented on Zoom on Friday, April 14, 2023

Introduction to Functional Assessment -- Field Study

Site visit in person on Friday, May 19, 2023

How to Review Plans and Create an Effective Review Process,

At the Forest Society Conservation Center on Friday, June 2, 2023

Research that Makes a Difference: Access to Nature & Its Community Economic Implications

January 19, 2023 | 11:00am – 12:00pm

ONLINE ONLY

Please join UNH for a new year webinar to hear findings on the community and economic implications of assessing and improving access to nature. We will share research and outreach information as well as a brand-new information brief. A panel of different perspectives on the benefits of nature for economic development, outdoor recreation, water quality, and climate adaptation will respond to the new findings and share opportunities for further work on this important topic. For more information and to register to to UNH [Nature Economy website](#).

Grants

NH Fish & Game Habitat Improvement Small Grants Program

Are you interested in improving wildlife habitat on townland? NH Fish and Game's Small Grants Program may be able to help. The Small Grants Program can help municipal, private, and land trust landowners, who own a minimum of 25 contiguous acres, restore or enhance habitat for wildlife. Funding of up to \$4,000 a year is available, plus it's very simple to apply. Projects that may qualify for funding include: brush clearing or mowing to maintain grasslands and shrublands; release of old apple trees; and maintenance of woodland openings. In exchange for the grant, landowners agree that their land will remain open for non-motorized public access activities, including hunting. Visit [NH F&G website](#) to learn about what other types of projects qualify and how to apply.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Water Restoration Grants

[The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration](#) grant program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds, and the species and habitats they support. Projects include a variety of ecological improvements along with targeted community outreach, education, and stewardship. Projects should increase access to the benefits of nature, reduce the impact of environmental hazards and engage local communities, particularly underserved communities, in project planning, outreach, and implementation. This program expects that applicants will represent a mixture of urban and rural communities. NFWF may use a mix of public and private funding sources to support any grant made through this program and we expect that more than half of the projects awarded will support underserved communities.

[Donate to NHACC](#)

Please make a year-end donation to NHACC! Your support helps us to build strong conservation commissions in NH by providing educational programs, technical assistance, and responsible legislative action. Make a donation on our secure website at [NHACC.org](https://www.nhacc.org) or mail your check to NHACC, [54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301](#).

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