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NHACC March 2026 Enews

1 message

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Thu, Mar 12, 2026 at 10:44 AM

Conservation Commission Activities, Grant Updates and more!



Recruiting New Conservation Commission Members

Is your commission looking to find interested people and engage them in the work of the conservation commission? Look for potential members who have already shown interest in commission activities and may have attended hikes or presentations. The membership of a conservation commission is prescribed by **RSA 36-A:3**. Commission members must be appointed by the select board or mayor for three-year terms, staggered so that each year approximately one third

of the terms expire. Present your recommendations to the appointing authority (usually the select board) with a letter that references RSA 36-A and outlines why this person will be a good addition. Learn more about recruiting and engaging new members by downloading the info sheets below.

- **Recruiting New Members**
- **Info for New Members**

CCs in the News



Gordon Graham, Margaret Ives, Riccardo Buzzanga

Derry Dedicates Conservation Property to Long-term Member

The Derry Conservation Commission and the Derry Town Council dedicated the Gulf Road Conservation property to one of Derry's long-term stewards of Conservation. This property will officially be named the Margaret Ives Conservation Land. Margie served on the Conservation Commission from 1997 to October 2024, where she served not only as a member but as vice chair and chair for many of those years. The property features wooded trails and is managed by the Derry Conservation Commission and a professional forester to provide forest products, improve wildlife habitat, and provide recreation opportunities.

Education & Training Opportunities

NHACC Lunch & Learn Series

RecReady NH: New Hampshire's Outdoor Recreation Planning Guide

Wednesday, March 18, at 12 noon on Zoom

Presenters:

Janel Lawton – Director, NH Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development

Heather Shank – Director, NH Division of Planning and Community Development

Outdoor recreation is increasingly recognized as a key driver of local economic growth, community well-being, and quality of life across New Hampshire. In response to growing demand for guidance and technical support, the New Hampshire Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry Development (ORID), in collaboration with the Division of Planning and Community Development (DPCD), developed *RecReady NH*—a first-of-its-kind outdoor recreation infrastructure planning guide tailored specifically for Granite State communities. This session will provide a preview of the guide, which offers step-by-step, modular guidance for municipalities, towns, nonprofits, and conservation commissions with planning, designing, and implementing outdoor recreation infrastructure. Presenters will demonstrate how the guide supports collaborative planning processes that integrate local priorities, environmental stewardship, and economic development goals. Participants will gain an overview of the guide's practical tools, templates, and planning strategies, and learn how to apply them within their own communities.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Registration Open for Saving Special Places

Friday, April 10 • 8:30 am - 3:45 pm

Saving Special Places provides professional development and networking for land trust staff and their board members, other conservation/watershed organizations, conservation commissioners and other municipal boards, and natural resource professionals from New Hampshire and beyond. **[LEARN MORE & REGISTER.](#)**

Demystifying Conservation Easements Webinar

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 • 4:00pm-6:00pm

Conservation Easements are detailed legal documents that can be tricky to read and understand. Join Barbara (NHACC) and Sara (UNH Extension) for an online training to learn more about the basics of conservation easements. Barbara and Sara will help decipher the structure and jargon of a conservation easement and walk through the essential sections for effective easement monitoring. This program is designed for conservation commissioners or land trust volunteers

who would like to better understand the components of conservation easement deeds.

[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)

TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

2026 Community Technical Assistance

Now Accepting Applications!

The *Taking Action for Wildlife* team offers direct technical assistance to communities interested in incorporating wildlife and habitat information into their land conservation, land-use planning, land stewardship, and education/outreach. This year we are accepting applications on a rolling basis, so communities can apply whenever they are ready! There is no fee for this assistance. To learn more, read examples of ways we can help, and find details on how to apply, visit the [TAFW website](#).



TurtleFest 2026!
A SHELLebration of Turtles, Wetlands, and More!

Saturday, May 9, 2026

The Newmarket Conservation Commission is excited to host our second annual TurtleFest on May 9. This free and family-friendly event is aimed at people of all ages. Our aim is to raise awareness about turtles and their habitats, how to help turtles across roads, and how to make our roads safer for turtles. Participants will learn about ways they can help protect our wildlife and wetlands.

The Saturday event begins with a 7 AM bird walk at the Wiggin Farm Conservation Area and ends with an afternoon field trip to learn about vernal pools with Wetland Scientist Mark West. These outdoor events bracket a two and half hour program at the Newmarket Jr/Sr High that includes children's activities, educational exhibits, TurtleFest t-shirts and bandanas for sale, and four presentations by experts in birds, turtles and roads, and other wildlife. For more information go to the link below.

[TurtleFest Website](#)

[TurtleFest Flyer](#)

Grant Opportunities

LCHIP GRANT ROUND 2026 Opens March 18

The Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (**LCHIP**) will soon be opening the 2026 grant round for new applications. On March 18, 2026, the **LCHIP** pre-application Letter of Intent (LOI) will be open for interested applicants to fill out in the **LCHIP** Grant Management System. The due date for an LOI to be submitted to the system is 5:00PM on Wednesday April 29, 2026. An LOI is required for all potential applicants to be considered for the funding round. **LCHIP** will review the information provided in the LOI form. If the applicant, the resource, and the project are eligible, an invitation to submit a full application will be sent by **LCHIP** in May. Full applications are due in the system by 5:00PM on Wednesday June 17, 2026.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR LAND CONSERVATION TRANSACTION COSTS IN THE GREAT BAY WATERSHED

Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership announces the Spring 2026 application is available. Grants assist with transaction costs for land protection projects in the Great Bay Watershed of New Hampshire. Qualified nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) conservation organizations, municipalities and units of government may apply.

Application Due Date: April 15, 2026

Grant Application Instructions and Application Form are available on the [GBRPP website](#). For information, contact Dea Brickner-Wood ~ GBRPP, Great Bay Coordinator

NEW ENGLAND GRASS ROOTS ENVIRONMENTAL FUND

Grants to fund community involvement in projects that address environmental issues including agriculture, air quality, alternative energy, aquifer protection, biotechnology, community gardens, environmental justice, energy conservation, forestry, global warming, land trusts, marine environment, public health, sprawl, sustainable

communities, toxics and hazardous waste, trails, water quality, watershed management, wetlands, wildlife, and youth-organized environmental work. [SEE WEBSITE](#).

FUNDS AVAILABLE TO PROTECT WILD PLACES

The Conservation Alliance (TCA) protects outdoor spaces and wild places through the collective power of its member companies. TCA members' annual contributions go directly to its grants program. Twice a year, TCA's **Member-Directed Grants** provide support for projects that seek to secure lasting and quantifiable protection of a specific wild land or waterway. As part of this process, TCA member companies nominate up to two organizations to apply for funding of up to \$50,000 and help to select grantees who are committed to creating a healthy, liveable planet for all. Organizations should connect with **member companies** in their state to secure a nomination. This program is led by an advisory committee made up of individuals from member companies, philanthropy, and grantee organizations. Visit the Conservation Alliance's website for further information on its grant programs. For more info go to: [The Conservation Alliance](#)

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