

Cousins Field Community Garden with over 15 families waiting for a plot.

Hugh Cargill Community Garden is located on rich farmland bequeathed to the Town by Hugh Cargill in 1793 for the benefit of the poor in Concord. Currently 50 families have 75 garden plots in production. Gardeners donated vegetables to the Concord Open Table and flowers to Town offices and tables at the Stone Soup Dinner. HCCG was able to make a substantial cash donation to the Hugh Cargill Trust for the benefit of needy Concord residents.

Environmental and Educational Activities

The Division continues to sponsor the longstanding tradition of early morning Conservation Coffees held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30AM. These lively and stimulating gatherings of citizens, Federal, State, and local officials provide an interesting and effective forum to exchange information, ideas, and concerns about conservation and the environment.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION



From left: Dean Banfield, George Lewis, Jamie Bemis, Chair; Elissa Brown, Steve Verrill

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and staff are responsible for the overall stewardship of the natural resources of the Town, and the establishment of Town environmental policy in conjunction with the Selectmen and Town Meeting. The NRC administers the state Wetlands Protection Act, Rivers Protection Act, and the recently approved Concord Wetlands Bylaw. The NRC also plays an important role in open space

planning pursuant to its authority under the Conservation Commission Act.

Wetlands Protection Act

The majority of Commission and staff time relates to administering and enforcing wetland regulations. Wetland permit applications included 42 Notices of Intent, 3 Abbreviated Notices of Resource Area Delineation, and 16 Requests for Determination of Applicability, for a total of 61 new applications. The NRC closed out many completed projects, issuing 23 Certificates of Compliance. The NRC also began working with 10 property owners to resolve new violations, and continued making progress on 4 major on-going violations. To resolve a significant tree removal violation at the Old Calf Pasture, the NRC and the Town entered into a Settlement Agreement with a Concord resident and worked with this resident to develop a 5-year restoration plan. The NRC and staff responded to 3 appeals to the State's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and issued 4 Emergency Certifications. The NRC received 4 Requests to Amend an Order of Conditions, and 5 Requests to Extend an Order of Conditions.

Major projects reviewed by the NRC this year consisted of an 11-unit residential development at 201 Independence Road adjacent to Gowings Swamp; an artificial turf athletic field at Fenn School; failed slope restoration at 54 Old Powder Mill Rd.; and a new proposal to redevelop 1135 Main St., which now includes plans for a canoe launch on the Assabet River. Massport received approval of its 5-year Vegetative Management Plan and work began this year. The plan included converting 3 acres of upland to grassland to support grassland bird habitat.

Wetlands Bylaw & Regulations

The Town passed a Wetland Bylaw at Town Meeting that became effective on September 10 following Attorney General approval. The Bylaw codifies the 25-foot No Disturb Zone from wetlands, protects vernal pools and their habitat, and ensures compliance by establishing fines, which will be used for noncompliant or repeat offenders. The NRC has administered the 25-foot No Disturb Zone as a policy since 1994. Town Meeting approved an amendment requiring that Wetland Bylaw Regulations be approved by Town Meeting. To this end, the NRC developed Regulations this fall and held a pub-

lic meeting in preparation for Town Meeting 2010.

Natural Resource Commission SubCommittees

The *Conservation Restriction Stewardship Committee* worked with staff to direct the consultant who reviewed the 5 conservation restriction baseline documentation reports and identified 10 additional restrictions for the consultant to complete baseline documentation. The CRSC developed criteria to prioritize baseline reporting for Town-held CRs, drafted a CR violation policy, participated in GPS training, and participated in several field visits with the consultant to observe the techniques and best practices in conservation restriction “baseline” and monitoring. The CRSC reviewed and recommended approval to the NRC for 1 Town-held CR and 2 privately held CRs. Members include Ann Colony, Hasso Ewing, Marilyn Hughes, G. Montgomery Lovejoy, and Emily Wheeler.

The mission of the *Heywood Meadow Stewardship Committee* is to rehabilitate Heywood Meadow to evoke its historical and agricultural past, accommodate passive recreation and further the Town’s conservation goals. In the spring the Committee initiated an experiment to better understand the wildflower cycle by requesting that the meadow not be mowed throughout the summer. The HMSC decided to return to a modified mowing schedule in 2010. Current members are John Bordman, Mary Clarke, Joanne Gibson, Marion Grabhorn, Bruce MacAlpine, Lorna Mack, Marian Thornton, Win Wilbur, and Sandy Smith.

The *Mattison Field Stewardship Committee* did not meet this year.

The *Mill Brook Task Force* held biannual clean-ups and celebrated the 7th annual RiverFest with a nature walk along the Mill Brook by Thoreauvian naturalist Walter Brain. The MBTF continued its catch basin monitoring and tagging project in the effort to increase public

awareness. Members include Carol Gupta, Bruce McAlpine, Lorna Mack, John and Fran Neville, and Allan Schmidt.

Following successful blazing of the Town Forest, the *Trails Committee* began blazing the trails on Town lands at White Pond. Trail maps for the Town Forest were finalized and a large one was placed at the Walden St. entrance. The committee held a contest underwritten by the Concord Chamber of Commerce to design trail markers with the logo “Concord Trails” and these were installed at the entrances to the Town Forest.

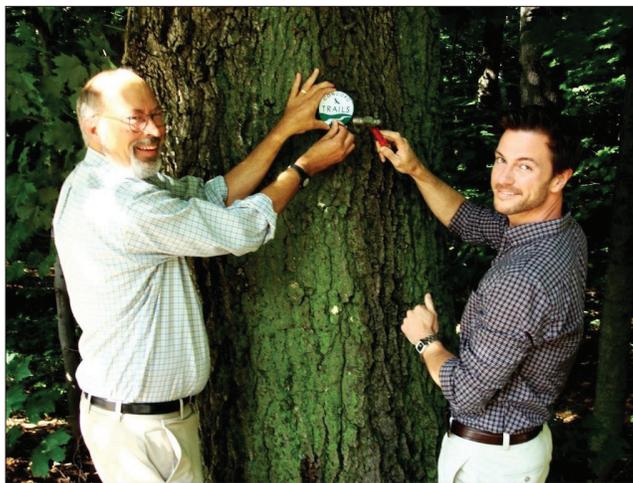
Re-blazing of the Bay Circuit Trail through Concord

was also completed, except for a two-block segment in Concord Center for which required approvals have been requested. Members include Dean Banfield, Harry Beyer, David Clarke, Lydia Gregoret, Bill Kemeza, Jonathan Keyes, Ken Miller, Peter Siebert, and Allan Schmidt.

The *Warner’s Pond Stewardship Committee* helped prepare an application for Community Preservation Act funds for a comprehensive watershed study of the

pond and develop short- and long-term recommendations for enhanced recreational use and ecological health of the pond. The CPC approved this Application for the Warrant, which will be voted at 2010 Town Meeting. The WPSC also organized an invasive species work day in which 13 people, including Scouts, removed purple loosestrife. Current members include: Al Easterday, Rebecca Gates, Ruth Gerow, Dot Higgins, Jim Larden, Joanne Loynd, Charlie Simpson, Maureen Swanson, John Tovrov, and Kansas Wight.

The *Wildlife Passages Task Force* presented a poster at the Northeastern Transportation and Wildlife Conference that summarized the success and findings of the Route 2 wildlife underpasses. These results were also shared at several other talks, in publications, and on National Public Radio. Remote photography and tracking bed



Peter Siebert and Jesse Birge installing a trail marker selected in a contest underwritten by the Concord Chamber of Commerce.

results have documented over 30 species using the four wildlife underpasses with widely varying frequencies. The WPTF continues to work with Noah Charney, a UMass Amherst PhD student, on statistical analyses of the culvert crossing data. The WPTF continue to find ways to share their findings and are considering the next steps for the project. Members include Dave Kay, Ron McAdow, Lydia Rogers, Dan Stimson, and Bryan Windmiller.

PLANNING DIVISION

Marcia Rasmussen, Director of Planning & Land Management
Lara Kritzer, Senior Planner
Julie Vaughan, Senior Planner
Nancy Hausherr, Administrative Assistant
Paula Trebino, Administrative Assistant

The Planning Division provides professional and administrative support to standing boards and committees including: the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, Historic Districts Commission, Historical Commission, Community Preservation Committee and Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee. Planning Division staff are responsible for coordinating the review of development proposals that are submitted for regulatory approval to the Planning Board, Board of Appeals, Historic Districts Commission and Historical Commission. The Planning Division also assists the Community Preservation Committee with plan updates, application process, and funding distribution. The Division also provided staff support to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee and worked with the West Concord Task Force and the Concord Housing Development Corporation, in addition to administering the contracts for specific projects related to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, the West Concord Master Plan and the various housing initiatives.

Planning Division staff coordinated or were appointed to work on various Town-oriented projects. Senior Planner Lara Kritzer worked on the Employee Efficiency Team to gather further information on the fee structure in other municipalities. Fees were subsequently raised in the summer of 2009.

Planning Division staff worked together to develop a space needs survey and an inventory of Town facilities in an effort to begin planning for future expansion and

renovation. The preliminary survey was completed and building and site plans are currently being compiled for use by a facility planner.

Senior Planner Julie Vaughan worked with other Town staff to coordinate the Town Energy Audit of nine Town buildings, which included a tour of facilities with the consultant. A new draft Energy Audit Report was prepared, which was reviewed and discussed by facility managers with next steps then presented to the Comprehensive Sustainable Energy Committee and Town staff.

The Town applied for and received official membership status to the Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI); Senior Planner Julie Vaughan was designated as the Town liaison. She completed the Inventory Training and Local Government Operations Protocol Training for the Clean Air and Climate Protection software that ICLEI provides as a means for calculating, inventorying, quantifying, predicting and tracking municipal greenhouse gas emissions both for community and government operations with the intent of formulating carbon reduction goals for a set forecast year.

Senior Planner Lara Kritzer and Director Marcia Rasmussen prepared draft design guidelines for West Concord as recommended by the Village Center Study and the West Concord Task Force. These draft guidelines were distributed to the West Concord Task Force and the Planning Board with adoption of the guidelines expected in early 2010.

Director Marcia Rasmussen and Senior Planner Lara Kritzer worked through the summer on the request to join the West Metro HOME Consortium, and Concord was approved as an official member in September. Participation in the Consortium gives the Town access to federal funds for affordable housing projects (Concord may receive up to \$25,000 annually once admitted to the Consortium), beginning in 2011. This is an action that was recommended in the 2004 Planned Production Housing Plan and the 2005 Comprehensive Long Range Plan. The Planning Division also provided oversight for the successful resale of Emerson Annex Unit #8. The Town is responsible for the resale of affordable homeownership units at the Emerson Annex, Elm Brook Lane, Concord Homes, 129 Old Bedford Rd., 335 Walden St. and Baker Ave./Gifford Lane.