

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

This year you'll notice some new faces at the Hampden Conservation Commission. Joining Phil Grant are members Pat Cote, Candice Keddy, and Charlie Schmitt; associate members Cindy Connors and Scott Rumpalik. Technically, our purpose is to locally administer the provisions of the Town's Wetland Protection By-Laws and Massachusetts Wetland Protection and Rivers Protection Acts. Practically, we review development and alteration within environmentally sensitive areas and determine a reasoned course of action that balances the intentions of individual property owners with the general interests of the Town and State as they are defined in those documents.

We meet regularly the third Wednesday of each month and hold special meetings to ensure that each application receives timely response. Meetings are posted at the Town Hall and the Town web site; public hearings are additionally advertised and notice given to abutters by mail. We welcome any questions regarding our scope and procedure. You can contact us by phone, mail or by attending any of our meetings.

The Conservation Commission continues to encourage Town acquisition of open space for preservation, recreation and resident enjoyment. And we continue to support the volunteer efforts of those groups dedicated to that purpose; our resource materials are available to everyone.

We appreciated the assistance of the Selectmen in reconstituting our Commission and the work of all previous board members for their stewardship of our Town's natural resources. We look forward to working closely with other Town departments to sustain those efforts and are determined to continue this Commission's service to the residents of Hampden.

Respectfully submitted:

Charlie Schmitt, Chairman  
Phil Grant  
Pat Cote  
Candice Keddy  
Cindy Connors  
Scott Rumpalik