

ROAD AGENT

In 2010, the highway department faced its first challenge of the year with the March and April rain/wind storm and floods. This was the third natural disaster and FEMA site that Newton has had in the past three years. The road crew assisted and coordinated restoring power with the utility company, reconstructed washed out roads, repaired culverts and drainage structures and assisted residents with pumping out their basements. Also, collecting over 1800 cubic yards of brush and debris left behind from the two storms kept the two part-time highway employees busy for many weeks.

Per the 2009 Roadway Condition Evaluation, approximately 4,400 linear feet of the following roads were reconstructed:

1. Smith Corner Road
2. Crane Crossing Road
3. Heath Street
4. Maple Avenue

Other projects completed included the replacing of culverts with approximately 230 feet of pipe on Currierville Road, Gale Village Road, and Maple Avenue, that had collapsed due to age.

Last, and happy to report, we repaired and finished a drainage issue that has existed for many years on Marcoux Road, adding 300 feet of 12" ADS pipe, one catch basin and a water quality structure to alleviate flooding on the low lying roadway.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Pivero
Newton Road Agent

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Conservation Commission has had successful year in 2010. According to state law, it is our responsibility to protect the natural resources of the town. The New Hampshire RSA 36-A directs us to "conduct researches into our local land and water areas" & seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes." The protection of our watershed & natural resources, shoreline protection, wet soil issues, and endangered species protection are just some of the tasks that the Conservation Commission deals with. We continue to work with the State Wetland Bureau concerning various issues in our town and also give our input on all Dredge & Fill permit applications and work with in co-operation with other departments and code enforcement.

Our membership is made up of six regular members, three alternates, and one Selectmen Ex-Officio representative. Our committee is comprised of volunteers that are appointed by the selectmen. Our committee has a wide range of knowledge concerning wildlife, vegetation, shoreline and wetland soil issues. Their positive energy and continuous contributions of time has been an asset to our town in protecting our natural resources. We are lucky to have such a dedicated committee. Often times they have been presented with issues that require careful and immediate attention, and may require site walks during dinner time and/or weekends, but they step up to the plate to accomplish the necessary task to get the job done. In addition to our regularly scheduled meetings, we have participated in 12 site walks and responded to many complaints.

As development continues in town, we look for donations of land from residents in town and/or purchase land. Our Master Plan states that we continue to search and protect parcels that will increase our wildlife corridor, watershed resources and open space. Residents may be able to get a tax benefit from selling us a parcel of land at a bargain sale price while at the same time assisting in protecting our wildlife habitat and natural resources. One example of this, is the conservation easement on Hidden Acres Farm on Thornell Road. We are sad to say inform you, the landowner, Forrest Reynolds, who has worked closely with the Conservation Commission and the Stewardship Committee, to maintain the integrity of this historic farm and conservation easement, passed away in his home during 2010. Forrest was one of our strongest supporters for preservation of open space. This easement was the conclusion of an application to the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, (LCHIP). This is a wonderful piece of Newton History.

Thanks to the hard work of our commission we have been working on our parcels to clean them up and remove damaged and rotted trees. We had a more help than usual this year as a result of the Boy Scout Troop 91. They selected one of our town properties, the Busch Farm for their annual Boy Scout Jamboree. The scouts camped on the property for a weekend. While there, they cleaned up debris and did some trail maintenance.

Conservation Commission also assisted in the festivities at the Annual Family Fun Day at Greenie Park. This year the commission included interactive Wildlife Board Games, a chestnut and acorn counting game, a conservation power point and storm water management hand outs. The prizes for the children that participated in the games were donated by many local businesses in town. The Newton Recreation Committee organized this terrific event that was well attended.

The Scenic Roads in town also come under the charge of this Commission, as described in RSA 231:157 and RSA 231:158. The list of Scenic Roads is: Gale Village Road, Currierville Road, Maple Avenue, Goulds Hill Road, Heath Street, Bartlett Street, Town Hall Road and Thornell Road. We work very closely with the Road Agent and his crew regarding these roads.

This conservation Committee meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The meetings are held in the rear of the Town Hall at 7:30pm. All meetings are open to the public, and we encourage anyone that is interested to attend. Feel free to log onto to the town web site at <http://www.newton-nh.gov> for access to minutes of our meetings.

We look forward to another prosperous year, and encourage your input.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Mears/Chairperson, Nancy Slombo/Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Kim Lowther, Pat Wonson, Sandy Estabrook, Sheila Bergeron, Mary Ann LaPierre, Brian Valimont and Selectmen's Representative/Trisha McCarthy.

TRAILS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The Trails Committee is a Sub-Committee of the Conservation Committee. This is a new committee approved by the Board of Selectmen in 2010. The mission statement is in response to the desire of residents of the Town of Newton to have safe linkages between important destinations in the community, the goal of the Trails Committee is to create a plan and implement a strategy to provide for and promote the use of a more extensive and well-maintained multi-purpose trail system. The trails committee purchased medallions to mark the town open space areas. They have been doing many site walks for clean up and marking property. This committee hopes to developing maps of the town lands and plan to produce a flyer for each area listing best recreational use for each property.