

VASSALBORO CONSERVATION COMMISSION - Betsy Poulin, Chair

The Vassalboro Conservation Commission is now in it's ninth year! The Conservation Commission has the responsibility of conducting research and giving advice that will help Vassalboro citizens to better utilize, protect and plan for the Town's natural resources and open areas. The Conservation Commission coordinates its activities with other existing Town committees, departments and with statewide conservation organizations.

Mary Ellen Johnston retired after serving since the starting days of the Conservation Commission. She will be greatly missed. A new member has joined, Dylan Dillaway, who is an owner of 47 Daisies Farm on Webber Pond Road and a board member for the Seabasticook Regional Land Trust. Members of the Commission include David Jenney, Steve Jones, Holly Weidner, Dylan Dillaway and Betsy Poulin. The ordinance allows for up to seven members, so please contact the Town Office if you are interested in serving! All meetings are open to the public and are held on Thursday nights of every other month at the Town Office.

The Commission has been involved with the sidewalk proposal for East Vassalboro since 2007, attending meetings and brainstorming solutions for improved pedestrian safety. The addition of sidewalks was not approved at the November election. The Commission will continue to be involved in improving pedestrian safety, slowing vehicular traffic, improving aesthetics, and providing opportunities to improve the health of residents through accessible path options.

Commission members closely followed the Alewife Restoration Initiatives project for dam removal along the Outlet Stream to allow alewife migration to China Lake. Many meetings were attended at the East Vassalboro Grange and the Department of Marine Resources. The Masse Dam has been removed as the first construction step for the project and the stream is in the process of redefinition.

Some of you might have noticed the new signage at Vassalboro Recreational Fields for the Town Forest Trails. There are three trailheads around the perimeter of the soccer fields connecting forest and wetland trails, which also are partially on the former Narrow Gauge Railroad network. Trail work including removal of down trees and pushing back growth happened this year, as well as the purchase of new hemlock planks to upgrade the bog bridging.