Town of Walpole
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In December of 2019, the granite bench in this picture was installed at the Cranberry Meadow Preserve to honor the late Harold Putnam's contribution to the preservation and conservation on behalf of town lands.

The Commission's Town Forester, Alex Barrett of Long View Forest Contracting has completed rapid assessments of ten tracts of forested land owned by the Town of Walpole. In 2019, the Commission began identifying goals for each tract based on the assessment work. We will be reviewing the recommendations for future work during 2021.

Studies into the reconstruction of the Reservoir Dam and spillway culvert is on-going. Discussions regarding camping on Town properties is on-going. The commission hopes to prepare a brochure on the camping topic for the Selectboard to consider in 2021. Blazing of the Town property boundaries in on-going. Planning for a public forum on the Walker Road Gateway property (to be scheduled in the spring possibly) is on-going with a facilitator secured and the structure for the forum taking place.

At the beginning of 2020 there was quite a push by several people to plan tree planting events. Unfortunately, the pandemic put a damper on social and volunteer activities. We are hoping that 2021 brings much more knowledge about keeping safe and getting together, while masked and staying socially distant.

The Commission's Steven Dumont has spearheaded a Walpole trail sub-committee to discuss and report on trail maintenance activities. It's already been quite active and has generated more interest from volunteers! At the end of 2020, the Conservation Commission handed off existing trail mapping data to professional mapping technicians. We are very excited to share the final drafts with the community very soon.

I would like to thank the Town of Walpole for the opportunity to serve on the Conservation Commission and have an impact on preserving the rural character of Walpole for future generations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Flammia
Chair