

Town of Walpole
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Commission held several events in 2021. An invasives species woods walk was held in April 2021 with the Town Forester and botanist at Fanny Mason Forest to educate community members on the invasive species of concern and what actions can be taken to manage forests. A bench was installed at the Walker Road Gateway property attached to the kiosk and overlooking the Connecticut River in the summer of 2021. The Commission also held a community walk at the Gateway in November with a professional facilitator and several forestry professionals to assess accessibility and use options. Trail clean-up days were held at Fanny Mason Forest.

The Conservation Lands Map of Walpole was updated in 2021 and will be updated every few years. A letter of interest was submitted by the Conservation Commission to the State National Scenic Byway Funding opportunity to see if grants will be made available in 2022.

At the end of 2020 the Conservation Commission's trail sub-committee handed off existing trail mapping data to professional mapping technicians. In the fall of 2021 eight trail maps were completed. The maps can be found at the Town Hall and more will be completed in 2022.

In February 2021, our very own Lew Shelly and Peter Palmiotto sawed through the massive red oak tree that had fallen across the Mill Pond trail. In other trail news, the Commission's trail sub-committee began working with the Monadnock Region Rail Trail Collaborative in 2021 and worked with Cheshire County planners to apply for (and received!) \$55,000 in grant funding for various projects along the rail trail to make it more accessible.

The Conservation Commission is working with Town Forester, Alex Barrett of Long View Forest Contracting on plans to perform timber harvests at the Fanny Mason and Hooper/Watershed forests owned by the Town of Walpole. In 2019, the Commission began identifying goals for ten forested tracts of land. The Commission continues to update property boundary markings per the recommendations made by the Town Forester.



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