

**Tamworth Conservation Commission:
The Early Years (1964 – 1991)**

A Personal Recollection

by Betty Steele

**Tamworth Conservation Commission
Tamworth, New Hampshire
November, 2002**

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Cover Photo:
Whiteface Mountain above Jackman Pond.

This isn't a history per se; although it's been checked with TCC minutes and Town Reports, parts of it could not be verified from any written records.

In the fall of 1964, inspired by an Audubon meeting with Roger Tory Peterson as speaker, Sally Gallagher said "Tamworth must have a Conservation Commission;" so she and I, with help from other like-minded people, proceeded to bring this about. The State of New Hampshire had just passed enabling legislation.

The first step was to form a committee of interested people – Peg King, Lilian McGrew, Harry and Doris Sidwell Thompson, John and Mabel Hidden, Wil and Birget Smith, Joe Dawson, Betty Edgar, Marion Spaulding, Helen Cole, Marion Shaw, Pauline Crane, and John Damon.

At the outset Peg told us that the Garden Club had already tried for a warrant article to form such a commission, but were discouraged by the Selectmen who said there were already too few people to do the town work needed without adding a new commission.

The first committee meeting was held at the Gallagher house on Page Hill. I chaired the meeting but, all along, Sally was the spark plug who kept things going. Throughout the first year

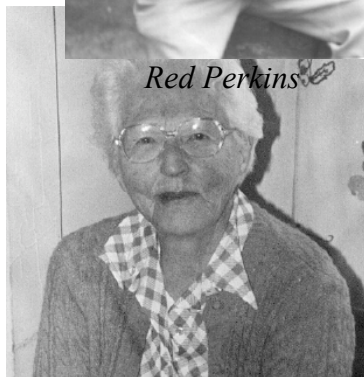
the committee discussed the many environmental concerns in town and what might be done.

Come January, 1966, we went to the selectmen with a list of twelve committee members, any one of whom would be willing to serve if appointed. That did it! The Selectmen put Article 31 in the Warrant for March: "To see if the Town will establish a town Conservation Commission as set forth in RSA 36." The article passed.

The Conservation Commission could have 3, 5, or 7 members. The selectmen, Steve Damon, Will Abbott, and Don Hutchins, decided on 7 as the best number to do business and appointed six of these from the list of people willing to serve. Since South Tamworth wasn't represented on our list they appointed Elton (Red) Perkins, which proved to be a wise choice. Red was an active, helpful member and served for twenty years.



Red Perkins



Peg King

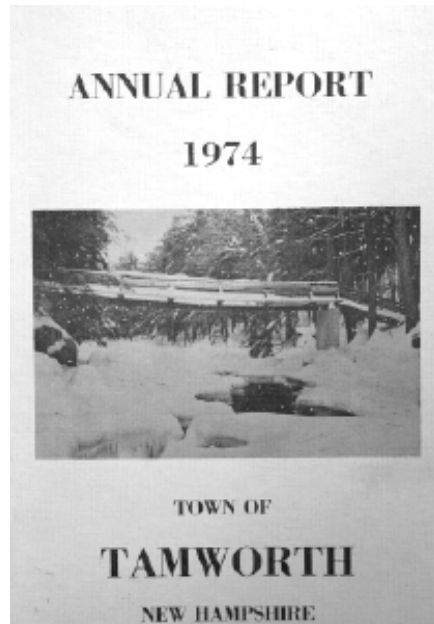
At the first meeting of the Tamworth Conservation Commission (TCC), April 17, 1966, a rather informal election was held and I became chairman. Sally Gallagher was secretary. Other members were Peg King, John Damon, Pauline Crane, Red Perkins, and Joe Dawson. Peg had taught conservation along with many other subjects, to third graders at Brett School, and had attended Conservation Camp run annually by the Society for the Protection of N.H. Forests ("the Society," or "Forest Society"). John was head of Carroll County Cooperative Extension. Pauline Crane was active with 4-H. Red Perkins worked with Saunders Lumber and held a surveyors license. Joe Dawson had a strong interest in conservation. Sally Gallagher was conservation oriented, with a focus on birds. I was still working in Concord (in Tamworth every weekend) and was a member of the Natural Preserves Forum in Concord, a professional group of environmentalists on the UNH and Dartmouth faculties, heads of division of DRED (Dept. of Resources and Economic Development), and a number of good lay naturalists of whom my brother, Fred, was one and Alec Lincoln, also of this area, another. I was fortunate to be a member and learned far more than I contributed.

The Forum had drawn up a list of areas in N.H. needing protection – among them an area of big pines in Hemenway and two bogs near White

Lake surrounded by black spruce, both recommended by Alec Lincoln. Peg and I urged something be done first to protect the fine stand of pines in Hemenway State Forest. Ted Natti, then head of the Division of Forests in DRED, agreed. Conservation commissions were new in N.H. and word was out to state agencies to help them. TCC asked for, and was given, a permit protecting Chinook Trail and Swift River and an area of 50 acres of the big pines. But, and this was a big BUT, a bridge was needed across Swift River to give access. Wonalancet Associates, of which Gertrude Behr was treasurer, had \$2,000.00 left, with no specific use for it, as the Associates had become inactive. After proper consultation with others of the Associates, Mrs. Behr turned this \$2000.00 over to TCC for the bridge. What a windfall!

Now, to get the bridge built, with plans by a certified engineer as required by the State. First a UNH engineer drew up an elaborate plan – cost \$30,000.00! Then we realized we had a certified engineer in Tamworth – David Bowles, who at that time worked for the State Highway Dept. He drew up a plan for the kind of bridge needed and within our budget. A long delay in starting construction proved to be fortunate as spring flooding and high waters soon showed that the bridge needed to be some feet higher than planned or it would undoubtedly go downstream.

The bridge was built, and pictured on the front cover of the 1974 Town Report. Next a sign was needed. This would cost some \$200, but Ted Natti said if in June his department had funds left it would pay, otherwise TCC would. He did have funds left, the State paid and a fine, durable sign made by the State was erected with help from TCC, primarily Red Perkins. A loop trail, starting at the far end of the bridge and going through the Big Pines, was flagged out by Sally Gallagher and me with later improvements and some rerouting by Percy Olton, by then a member of TCC. Percy wrote the first descriptive brochure of the trail, and a box was erected near the trail with a supply of brochures and a register for names and comments. Pauline Crane, who had a heart condition, suggested we also have a shorter, more level trail. The Tamworth Garden Club, of which she and Peg were members, laid out the Easy Walkers Trail in an area between road and river and wrote an interpretive guide to it. Thus was finished TCC's first major project.



COVER PICTURE:

This footbridge built by the Conservation Commission crosses Swift River in the Big Pines Natural area, a part of the Hemenway State Forest. Plans for the bridge were drawn by David Bowles and funds were donated by the Wonalancet Associates.

In 1980 it was decided there should be a spur trail to Great Hill Tower, to run from the high spot on Big Pines Trail up through a fine stand of hemlock. The Forestry Division was agreeable to this, the proposed trail marked out and our permit from the state was expanded to include a 200' strip on each side of the trail to be protected from lumbering.

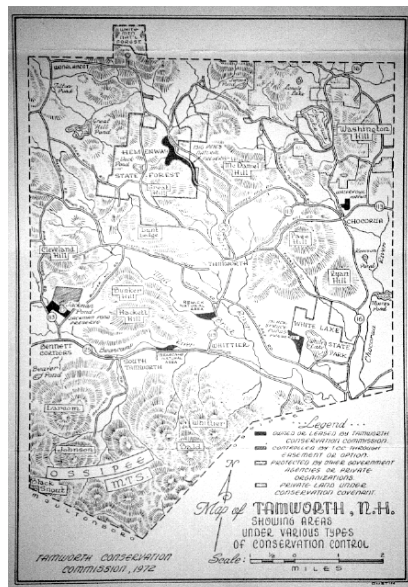
Great Hill Tower on Hemenway State Forest was built in the mid-thirties by the depression

era Civilian Conservation Corps. Long used as a fire lookout by the State, this use was abandoned when aerial fire patrols became more feasible than a manned tower. Some in town – notably Charlie Remick and Dave Bowles – deplored this change and dreamed of some form of patrol from the Tower using new technologies. The state offered to give to the Town the Tower itself and a right of way by the footpath up from the parking area on the west side. This was accepted by vote at the 1977 Town Meeting. The Selectmen requested TCC to manage this, as TCC already worked with the State on Hemenway. This is in addition to TCC's basic conservation mission, as the Tower is now for recreation. Funding for maintenance of the Tower is voted at Town Meeting separate from TCC's budget; such is the popularity of the Tower, that there has never been a problem with this vote.

A second major project was protection of Jackman Pond. There were four major projects going on somewhat simultaneously in those early years – protection of Jackman Pond area, protection of Black Spruce Bogs near White Lake, and writing a Conservation Plan, as well as work with the State in Hemenway.

Steve Damon, then a selectman, proposed an article in the 1967 warrant turning over to TCC management 10 acres of land on the north side of Jackman Pond outlet, owned by the Town as

a result of unpaid taxes, and it was so voted. This started it. Negotiations with the Pike Perkins family resulted in their agreement to sell a strip of land 200' wide along the south shore of Jackman for \$6,000. In a surprisingly short time this was raised with help from the Tamworth Foundation, two large donors, and 28 smaller donors, most of whom lived nearby. The north side of Jackman was owned chiefly by Ted Graham. He had received the land and a house on it by the will of Gertrude Meader. It was precious to him, so when TCC asked if he would grant an easement he refused – it seemed like giving the land away. Actually it would only have been giving up development rights along the shore, but that wasn't well understood at the time and, anyway, he feared it would cut into the price for which he might sell the land should it become necessary. So TCC paid Graham \$50 for first option to buy if he should sell the land. He did sell it some years later to Tom and Nancy Lindsay. TCC released the option and, in exchange, the Lindsays gave the Town an easement that protected the



1972 Map of Conservation Areas

shore from development. They were conservation minded and, in addition to the easement, permitted us to build a trail along the shore, though without any permanent right of way as they could not tell how it might affect them.

Meanwhile Marion Taylor, who owned part of the north shore of Jackman, offered to sell the Town a strip of 12 acres for \$1200. The original donors were good enough to give the additional money. The town now had protected the whole north shore of Jackman Pond and its marshes from Bunker Hill Road to Route 113 along the south shore. The north and south trail are now separated only by the bridge on Route 113 across the outlet and a brief stretch on Bunker Hill Road. This allows a circuit of the pond, about a two-mile walk.

There were continual problems with the Jackman North trail. Boundaries of the land bought from Marion Taylor were questioned. A re-survey had to be done to straighten this out. A bridge across a wetland couldn't be anchored without disturbing the wetland. As a consequence, it was flooded out each spring and had to be hauled back into place. The gravel pit expanded over the TCC access right of way and obliterated the trail. Ambrose, owner of this land and the gravel pit, then bought this right of way from us for \$2000. In the late 1980s, the trail was rerouted with the trail head now just west of the bridge over the outlet under Route

113. Chris Conrod did most of the work – built the new part of the trail, put in a kiosk with registry and map, as well as negotiating with Ambrose. Later, beyond the period of this paper, an easement was purchased for \$1868 from Ambrose for a trail between the gravel pit and marsh. This was done after TCC – again Chris did the work – checked on the possibility of a trail on TCC land, which would have meant a bridge across the marsh, not allowable in a prime wetland as the whole area had been so designated in 1987. Purchase of the easement finally solved the trail problem. Later, in the 1990s, there were other problems in this trail – it seemed fated for trouble.

To add to these problems, there was Maxwell Smith's claim of 8 acres on the north shore of the pond. He had no deed, but was sure he owned the land there, and the lot showed up on one tax map. However, the burden of proof was on him; TCC could find no evidence. After several years of discussion and unsuccessful work to find the deed or recording of it, the claim lapsed. Did the deed ever exist?

A third land project was acquisition of a black spruce bog and part of a second bog on land adjacent to White Lake State Park. It was owned by Harry Damon. I called on him to ask for an easement. As I've said, at that time easements were little understood by laymen. Harry refused, but regaled me with stories of how many New Hampshire hotels were burned down (his

insurance company had handled many of the claims). The visit was not wasted, however, as in 1969, after Harry died, his wife Frances gave TCC the land, with the tract dedicated in



*Frances and Harry Damon
(and Samuel C, the cat.)*

memory of Harry Damon – a tract of some 34 acres. Steve and Herb Damon laid out a trail, which was built along one shore of the large pond and around the smaller one. Several attempts to get an easement on the north shore of

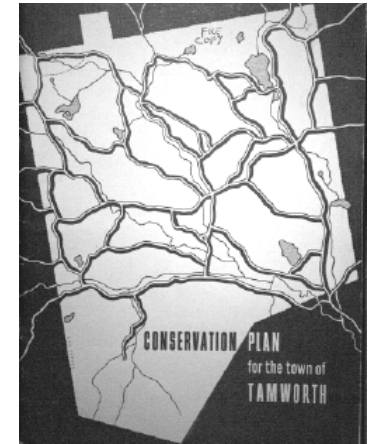
the large pond, owned by Burton Clark, failed, as Mr. Clark felt he might want to develop the shore for recreation. However, it is now almost certain he couldn't have obtained the necessary permit from the state, because of the nature of the bog pond and also because it was adjacent to White Lake State Park.

Some years later, in 1980, an area of the Park adjacent to TCC land was declared a National Natural Area because of the unusually fine stand of large pitch pine. Ed Flaccus, of Tamworth, had called attention to this in a study of natural areas in New England and New York worthy of protection. In 1983, the State asked my brother, Fred, to serve as warden for the natural area. He

walked through it and then asked Malcolm Thomas, landscape architect for state parks, to examine the feasibility of a side trail to allow around- the- lake walkers to visit TCC Black Spruce Bog area as well. It was feasible. Mr. Thomas laid out the link-up with our TCC trail and the Pitch Pine Trail in the State park. TCC members and park personnel built the link-up.

In those early days it was difficult for us to be on top of all state regulations. Though TCC made every effort to follow them, we made mistakes. The worst one we were able to rectify. Conservation Commissions are appointed by the Selectmen and work under their aegis. We kept the Selectmen informed regularly of what we were doing and later routinely sent them copies of our minutes. But we found it was required that at least two Selectmen sign every deed of land or easement given to or purchased by the Conservation Commission. To our dismay, we realized in 1973 that we hadn't done this! To say nothing until we were called on it – this seemed easiest – or to explain all to the selectmen and ask for a blanket signature for all deeds and easements already accepted. Obviously the latter was the correct way to go. The Selectmen were understanding and signed the statement authenticating everything already acquired. From then on we sounded out the Selectmen before land or easements were accepted, so all were properly signed.

The fourth major project was writing a Conservation Plan for the town. TCC was fortunate to have a member, John Damon, to guide us with this. He was a professional; we knew nothing about the planning process then. He helped organize a survey and meetings with other organizations in town, so the plan would reflect a public viewpoint. John was soon promoted to a higher position, with Cooperative Extension in Durham, so he left us, but not before he had written a tentative outline for the plan. It took several years and much discussion to compete the plan – arguments were between those who would harvest everything and those who would preserve everything. We were neophytes. There were some lively sessions. The best means to get a vote in favor of one's point of view was to type it out with a copy for each member. Those who did this tended to prevail. We ended up with a plan somewhere between preservation and harvest, and, in the process, with education of TCC members. Grants of \$250.00 from Spaulding Trusts and \$500.00 from Tamworth Foundation were received to print the plan. Cover design



was done by Bob Dustin, and some maps were included along with the text. Tamworth Conservation Commission was among the first in the state to complete such a plan.

The plan would have been more complete if it had specific recommendations for action—John Damon’s comment. An Addendum Committee was formed in 1973 to address this. I chaired the committee. Members were Ed Flaccus and Bob Finley, along with TCC members Steve Damon, John Hidden and Red Perkins. After several years’ work with meetings and field trips, it became evident there was not sufficient agreement, even among commission members, as to proposed actions related to private lands, and this project had to be abandoned. The plan published in 1973, though without an addendum, stood as a reasonable statement of our goals.

How to name a tract of land TCC acquired? One generous donor gave us 10 acres along a brook and asked to have it named Deer Haven. We accepted the land gratefully, but pointed out that, if named as wished, it would attract hunters to the detriment of deer. We then realized a policy was needed. We agreed on guidelines that land must have features needing protection from development; land in villages must also serve a village purpose; and final decision on a name should be made by TCC.

Earle Remick, co-owner of Remick Brothers store, former Selectmen and former State legislator, was also a Tree Farmer. When he died, in 1975, he left a 16-acre tract of land, 180 ft. on Rte 113 between Tamworth and Whittier with 2000 feet of Mill Brook frontage, to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. The Society offered to sell the land to TCC for one-half its value, suggesting this gift of half the value be used as matching funds to obtain a grant from Land and Water Conservation Fund for purchase of the land. The grant was obtained after a survey and appraisal, which set the value at \$8,000.00. The town now owned the land.

Nancy Coville, director of Tamworth Preschool (now Bearcamp Valley School and Children’s Center), offered to have a trail laid out and cleared in the Remick land, as she could obtain a grant for it. This she did, complete with a map and trail guide, and the school used the trail often for field trips. Eventually, however, it fell into some disuse and markers on the trail disappeared. It has only recently (1998) been brought back into use, re-marked, and re-routed.

When the state widened Rte 113 in the mid-80’s some pine trees were cut on the Remick land. The town was paid a compensation of only \$200.00. This was appealed, a hearing held in Ossipee, with Harold Cook – forester, Bob Lloyd – appraiser, Ted Gallagher – town

attorney, and TCC members. Value of the pines taken was appraised at \$600.00, and, as a result, the State paid the Town this \$600.00, in addition to the \$200.00, for a total of \$800.00, which was voted to go in the TCC Conservation Fund.

In those early years of TCC when I was still chairman, I was invited to planning meetings on land use in the Chocorua Basin. The State had come out with a recreation plan, which suggested the State should make plans for the area around Chocorua Lake. Land owners there, who wished to pre-empt action by the State and make their own plan, raised \$7,000.00 and hired Hans Klunder of Hanover to work out a plan. I attended several meetings with landowners and Klunder to talk over the land use situation. Klunder came up with a plan which stimulated much discussion by the land owners and culminated in the formation of the Chocorua Lake Conservation Foundation, which then evolved its own plan for the area, including covenants with specific restrictions by most landowners in the Chocorua Basin. Thus was TCC relieved of the tremendous and controversial task of protecting Chocorua Lake, by the foresight and effort of knowledgeable and community-minded landowners. Their means of protection, which included leaving the whole east side of the lake open to the public, was unprecedented in New Hampshire. TCC continues to work with the Foundation, and

TCC member John Mersfelder, is currently on their Foundation Board.

Wetlands are, by law, a prime concern of conservation commissions. TCC proceeded to draft a wetland ordinance. First Barry Keith, a professional, was engaged to explore and write a description of the town's wetlands. The ordinance was drafted by Ralph Weymouth and hearings held. It was accepted by the Town at the 1980 Town meeting.

This was a beginning, but a prime wetlands ordinance would give the most important wetlands additional protection. This was a big undertaking, and expensive, as an intensive professional survey of wetlands had to be made. Barry Keith, who did the original wetlands survey, was engaged again. Ralph Weymouth was the prime mover here. He not only persuaded TCC to use money from the Conservation Fund, but did most of the work drafting the ordinance. Such an ordinance required concurrence of the Planning Board, preliminary hearings, and a written ballot vote by the Town. Finally, in 1987, all hurdles were overcome, and the ordinance passed by 368–322. Tamworth became one of the first towns in the state with a Prime Wetlands ordinance. The eight wetlands designated as prime are: Great Hill Pond wetland complex, Jackman Pond wetland complex, Upper Bearcamp River from Sandwich town line to Rte 113 at Whittier,

Swift River wetland from Rte 113 to Rte 25, Chocorua River from Chocorua Village to Moores Pond, Upper Chocorua River, north of Chocorua Lake to Rte 16, and Upper Chocorua River east of Rte 16.

Applications for dredge and fill in wetlands come first to the Town Clerk and then to the Conservation Commission. TCC writes the State Wetlands Board (which has final decision) its approval, comments, or disapproval. The Wetlands Board can wait a limited time and, if it doesn't receive comments from the local conservation commission, or a request for a time extension, can act. But TCC has never let an occasion go by to express an opinion. And in one case – a plan to dredge a river for a swimming pool- TCC requested a hearing, as this seemed an unsuitable project. Several of us went to Concord, Percy Olton made the presentation- complete with area to be dredged, volume and nature of dredge material, stream flow, disposal of dredge material and damage to surrounding trees, which so impressed the Wetlands Board that it has enhanced the position of TCC with the state ever since. The permit was denied.

An early concern of TCC was planting of trees, especially in the villages. The first attempt consisted of transplanting rather large trees, not seedlings. This was only partially successful. Road salt was the prime problem – it was

pervasive especially in areas which called loudly for a tree, such as the triangle in South Tamworth Village. All the work we put in, and only a few trees survived. More successful was to use seedlings, plant them in an open field to grow and strengthen, and then transplant them to permanent locations. John Hidden offered use of the field by his home on Great Hill Road. Those who wanted trees could buy them at minimal cost and transplant them themselves. Fifty-six were taken and planted by individuals.

The reverse of tree planting was to cut down dead trees along the roadside, which threatened safety and power lines. I voted for this only reluctantly, as dead trees are a fine nursery for edible mushrooms. However, once down, hardwoods, if they are left by the roadside, still produce oyster mushrooms, so it wasn't as bad as I feared.

In January 1971, TCC decided that it was time to ask the Town for an appropriation—\$500.00 to cover operating expenses, which hitherto had been paid by TCC members and, for major amounts, by donations. In two previous years we had asked the Town for and received \$100.00 each year for planting trees. This expense would now be included in the general appropriation. The article for the 1971 Town Meeting read “to raise and appropriate \$500.00 for the expenses of the Conservation Commission and to create a Conservation

Fund.” In subsequent years the article simply stated “Conservation Fund \$500.00”. Ten years later the annual \$500.00 was changed to a specific budget request, so specific in fact that, in 1987, \$799.99 was asked for.

In 1984, it became apparent to us that legally any appropriated funds that were not spent within the year lapsed and went into the town’s general fund. In that year, and thereafter, we had a separate Warrant article that unexpended amounts be transferred to the Conservation Fund.

Early on, TCC offered scholarships to young people to go to the Forest Society’s summer conservation camp. This was continued for many years. Jesse Hughes, Randy Floyd, and Rick Austin, among others, went to camp and later came to a TCC meeting to tell of what they had learned. Rick became a junior member of TCC and attended meetings for a period. He offered a fresh point of view to our work.

To expand conservation education Peggy Damon was asked, in 1976, to be a Commission member. She wanted to help, not as a member, but to lead bird walks. These were held every Wednesday morning for 5 weeks, late April and May. They still continue as of this writing in 2000, although under leadership of Ned Beecher, since Peggy moved away. This has had far reaching consequences. In the early 80s New

Hampshire Audubon started Birdathon/Bloomathon to raise money for endangered wildlife. Through TCC walks, a core of bird watchers had built up that became the nucleus of the B/B effort in Tamworth, both for the identification of species and for financial support. This has developed into a fine fundraiser for wildlife; the ASNH B/B walk in Tamworth now generates well over \$8,000.00 a year, 44% of the statewide effort. Such was the result from the small beginnings made by TCC.

TCC had worked with Tin Mountain Conservation Center over the years. First with a field trip in May 1989 to White Lake with Ned Beecher. Later, when Ned became a member of the Tin Mt. Staff, the TCC contributed \$100.00 towards publication of his book “Outdoor Explorations in Mt. Washington Valley,” due to the chapter he had on White Lake. In 1991, TCC gave Tin Mt. \$100.00 toward scholarship aid for its conservation camp in South Tamworth, support of which was continued for several years.

Another educational effort made possible by TCC’s land acquisition was Nancy Coville’s work on an interpretive trail in the Remick Natural Area, as already described, and also interpretive work by her on Jackman South trail.

Focus on much of the work of the commission has been on easements as a method of land

protection, far more within financial reach than outright purchase, and which still leaves the land in private ownership and tax rolls. An easement is a legal document filed with the Register of Deeds. It is a gift or sale of development rights to property by a landowner either to the Town or a land trust organization such as the Forest Society. Easements are written individually to fit a landowner's needs, but often are to restrict building within a buffer zone of wetlands or roads.

TCC has acquired several small easements – from Iylie Irwin along a brook and Percy Olton along Wonalancet River, among others. Major successes were along Mill Brook, an effort strongly promoted by Dick Alt as well as by TCC; around Great Hill Pond, donated by Joan Cave; and the Perkins land along the Bearcamp River, now site of the Community School. Easements along Mill Brook and Bunker Hill Road were donated to the Town by – among others – Dick Alt and his family, Ed and Lou Flaccus, Bob Freeto, and the Aspinalls.

The easement given by Joan Cave around most of Great Hill Pond was the culmination of some years of consideration by her, at the suggestion of the Conservation Commission. Peg and I first talked with her in the summer of 1973. She wanted to do it – but just how? We introduced her to several people – Tudor Richards of N.H. Audubon; Paul Bofinger of the Forest Society;

and Richard Goodwin of Nature Conservancy. Still the best way for her to give an easement was elusive. But when need emerged for in-kind matching to acquire the Perkins land along the Bearcamp, through the state Land Conservation Investment Program, Joan cut through her problems and acted decisively, at considerable expense – legal, survey, and appraisal – to give the Town a most substantial easement around this wild pond. This in-kind matching made possible the Perkins easement, land now owned by the Community School, a complex easement deed to the Town, to be regularly monitored by TCC. John Mersfelder did the work on this, long and complicated it was. It was the early groundwork by TCC in the period about which I am writing which made this possible.

For many years Peg King and I worked on the Commission, along with the other laymen, ploughing our way through unknown territory with occasional volunteer professional help – notably from John Damon with the Conservation Plan; Ralph Weymouth, a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists, with the Prime Wetlands Ordinance; Percy Olton, an engineer, with his presentation to the Wetlands Board on the hazards of dredging a stream for a swimming pool. Between 1987 and 1988 came a breakthrough. Three professionals in conservation work became commission members – Peter Cooperdock, Chris Conrod, and Lori Gerard. These three were soon

appointed as wetlands committee. Now advice to the Wetlands Board came directly from a scientific basis, rather than from laymen's time-consuming efforts along with their common sense. At this time also John Mersfelder joined the commission. His experience came as chairman of a conservation commission in Massachusetts, where commissions have the final say on dredge and fill permits, not just advisory to the state as in N.H. This, along with his enthusiasm for and commitment to the work, made him invaluable.

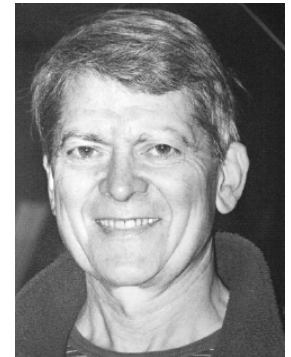
TCC has consistently been concerned with the town dump – with recycling, problems of proximity to Mill Brook, and household hazardous waste. A Town Dump Committee was formed at the urging of TCC, to consider recycling. Its work, by people such as Walter Upson, Lou Wiesner, and others, resulted in a \$45,000.00 grant to purchase a recycling receptacle. This not only saved reusable material, but lessened to some extent pressures on the dump from volume of waste. A household hazardous waste effort, initiated at state and regional level was welcomed and promoted in Tamworth by TCC. There was



Chris Conrod

educational effort to spread the word, a sign made by Chris Conrod, placed at the dump each year, and one or two volunteers at the disposal site. There was also need of funding. For several years, we put a petitioned article in the Warrant. Once this was established with annual support from voters, it automatically became a part of the Selectmen's budget for dump upkeep.

On May 19, 1991, the efforts of TCC for the dump were recognized. Peg King, chairman, and I as vice-chairman, were honored by an event at the dump, complete with scrolls of honor presented by Selectmen Bill McCarthy, music by the Tamworth Band, and free ice cream from Ben and Jerry's. This was a finale for Peg and me, as shortly we became alternates on the commission although continuing routine work, but with full responsibility turned over to John Mersfelder and Chris Conrod as chairman and vice-chairman, who by then were doing much of the work anyway.



John Mersfelder

Appendix

Much more went into TCC's work than is possible to recount here. There were our dreams, our frustrations, and our failures, as well as the nitty-gritty of routine work – constant meetings with the Selectmen, Planning Board, Lakes Region Planning, and the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions, amongst others. There was study to keep in touch with changing environmental policies, public relations, correspondence with Wetlands Board, routine clerical work, etc., etc. Also, unsuccessful efforts at land acquisitions, such as Clark land at Black Spruce Bogs, and an easement along Mill Brook shoreline about to be signed when the owner demanded no hunting, which therefore was unacceptable to the Selectmen.

I've chosen highlights of work done, things that brought lasting results, but this only accounts for a part of the time and effort of TCC.

These are the members of TCC who served through the years of this account:

Sally Gallagher, 1966–73
Joe Dawson, 1966 – 68
Betty Steele, 1966 – present

Peg King, 1966 – 94
John Damon, 1966 – 69
Red Perkins, 1966 – 84
Pauline Crane, 1966 – 74
Percy Olton, 1968 – 79
John Hidden, 1970 – 77
Florence Damon, 1974 – 75
Steve Damon, 1973 – 79
Scott Aspinall, 1975 – 79
Ralph Weymouth, 1977 – 84
Earle Wasson, 1979 – 84
Tom Wilgoose, 1979 – 86
Dana Steele, 1984 – 1991
Harold Cook, 1984 – 93
Randy Hayford, 1984 – 86
Carrie Maughs-Pugh, 1985 – 88
Peter Cooperdock, 1987 – 93
Lori Gerard, 1988 – 94
John Mersfelder, 1987 – present
Chris Conrod, 1988 – 98

Planning Board Representatives on TCC:

Dana Steele, 1980 – 84
Bruce Robinson, 1984 – 87
Wayne Lloyd, 1987 – 89
Scott Aspinall, 1989 – 90
Nat Steele, 1990–94