

CENTER HARBOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION (CHCC)
ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

In 2020, the Center Harbor Conservation Commission (CHCC) held two meetings, one in February (in person) and the other in November (virtually). The agendas and detailed minutes of both meetings are found on the Commission's webpage of the Town's website. NH Dept. of Environmental Services (NHDES) Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) annual water sampling of Hawkins Pond was conducted as usual during the summer months. The Town's conservation easement held on the Fogg Hill Conservation Area was monitored in accordance with his contract by Rick Van de Poll in November of 2020. The amount of Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) monies deposited into the Conservation Fund (CF) was \$14,200.00 and no expenditures from the CF were made.

In 2021, the CHCC saw an uptick in its activity, resulting in five meetings and one site walk of a property – agendas and minutes are posted as noted above. The Commission continued to actively review NHDES Wetlands and Shoreland applications and permitting.

In July of 2021, an expressed concern from local and area residents pertaining to herbicide spraying by the New Hampshire Electric Coop (NHEC) prompted the Commission to investigate potential environmental & ecological impacts, resulting in communication with an NHEC arborist & their spraying contractor. A presentation was given to the CHCC by David Rousseau, Director from the Division of Pesticide Control, NH Department of Agriculture.

The end of 2021 found the Commission working closely with Center Harbor's Code Enforcement Officer, Bill Doucette on matters pertaining to Center Harbor's local ordinances, particularly those referenced in the Water Resources Conservation Overlay District, Chapter 10 of the Zoning Ordinances. Of concern to the CHCC at year's end is the "potential regional impact" (including potential impact to shared groundwater resources) of a project involving a multiple unit condominium development sited off Bean Road in Moultonborough, near the municipal boundary between Center Harbor & Moultonborough. This will continue to be monitored closely by the CHCC in 2022.

The amount of LUCT monies deposited into the CF in 2021 was \$8,850.00 and no expenditures were made.

The Commission added two commissioners in 2021 – Barbara Picard in July & Aimee Manfredi – Sanschagrin in August. Harry Viens became the Selectmen's Representative to the Commission in May and Maureen Criasia moved from Alternate to Commissioner in May & Chairman in June. Several alternates are needed on the Commission; if you are interested, please contact us by calling the Town Offices at 603-253-4561 or emailing us at conservationcomm@centerharbornh.org. Our meetings are held quarterly at 8 am on the second Wednesday in February, May, August & November and on an "as needed" basis.

I would like to close out this report with a recent photo of the Kettle Hole Bog at the Lakes Region Conservation Trust's Fogg Hill Conservation Area in West Center Harbor. The Commission is grateful to the people of Center Harbor for the opportunity to protect this property's natural beauty and guarantee its permanence in conservation through the Conservation Easement granted to the Town through its Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen A. Criasia, Chairman

