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## CONSERVATION COMMISSION REPORT

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The Westford Conservation Commission has worked to enhance community understanding of land conservation, expand public trail information, encourage trail use, and stimulate community involvement in conservation efforts. We have developed brochures, web sites, library displays and spoken at community forums on conservation issues that face our town and state. We have also sold Conservation Commission tee shirts this year to promote conservation and town trails.

The Westford Conservation Fund has grown significantly this year from personal donations and the annual tree and shrub sale. The annual tree and shrub sale was very successful, raising \$1,423.79. The Westford Conservation Fund's current balance is \$8,266.66, which is up from \$6,388.78 last year. The Conservation Fund does not receive any money from the town budget; it is completely funded via private donations and sales, so we would appreciate any tax deductible donation to the Westford Conservation Fund by contacting the Town Office, 1713 VT RTE 128, Westford, VT 05494.

The Westford Conservation Commission is now up and running as part of the Town website, thanks in large part to Conservation Commission member Chuck McGill. You can find us at <http://www.westfordvt.us/conservation.php>.

The Conservation Commission also provided support to the Westford Farmers' Market in creating a Farmers' Market and Local Business Brochure, which is produced bi-annually (Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer editions) and available at the Town Library, Town Office, Westford Market or on the web at <http://www.westfordvt.us/Documents/Conservation/Documents/Westford%20Brochure.pdf>.

We also produced two other brochures, one on land conservation issues and the other a Trail Brochure Guide and map. These are available at the Town Office and Town Library and will soon be posted on our web site.

The Conservation Commission is striving to bring at least one trail a year into decent condition. This year we did this for the Shultz Trail and next year we'll be working on the Goodrich Trail. We also held two guided hikes of the Shultz Trail accompanied by a renowned naturalist and will be planning more of these events for the coming year. Please join us on these wonderful hikes so you too can discover some of Westford's treasured public trails. Care and upkeep is essential to the well being of our town trail system, and the Adopt-A-Trail program is a vital part of our

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effort to maintain these trails. A special thanks to the following community members who have either contributed or volunteered in our Adopt-a-Trail program: Frank Ammirato, John Doty, Eric Martin, Sarah Pinto, Peggy and Dale Rodgers, Alan Rogers, Glenn Rogers, Rosemary Shea, Marilyn Thomas and Steve Willard. If you are interested in helping, please contact Conservation member Sarah Pinto at 598-5601 or [abbythedog@hotmail.com](mailto:abbythedog@hotmail.com).

Maps of town trails are continually being updated. We are currently working to map and possibly name the Westford School trails so that there is greater detail on our trail maps. We are also interested in expanding and connecting trail networks throughout the town. If any resident is interested in setting up a temporary right-of-way for trail usage, please contact any member of the Conservation Commission.

Mileages of the town trails were added to the certificate of highway mileage filed with the State of Vermont. The Shultz, Seymour and Goodrich Trails were reassessed, accurately mapped and reported to the State. Through this process, more than a mile of new trail was officially added to the Westford trail system. Reporting this information to the State ensures our trails stay public resources the whole community can enjoy. Also initial research was conducted throughout the year on potential ancient roads that might exist in Westford. This initial analysis was rolled into the start-up of the Ancient Roads Committee, which was created and members appointed by the Selectboard on December 27, 2007.

The Westford Selectboard asked the Conservation Commission for recommendations on appropriate trail usage on town trails, such as motorized or non-motorized use. The Conservation Commission asked for input from Westford residents and invited the public to discuss the issue at two meetings held on October 24 and November 28. The recommendations were submitted to the Selectboard in December and are available from the Westford Town Office or the Conservation Commission.

Green-Up day was another huge success and the townspeople of Westford did an awesome job cleaning up the community. All the green-up bags were used and in fact we will order more for next year so we don't run out. The town's roadways looked markedly better after the community "green-up". Westford brought in a total of 1.02 tons of Green-Up Day trash and 135 tires for a total of 2.47 tons. The Conservation Commission would like to acknowledge the Westford School's 3rd and 4th grade classes once more for spending the Friday before Green-Up Day collecting roadside garbage throughout the town. They had over 24 parent helpers and collected 58 bags of trash, 3 tires and 20 boxes of glass, plastic and metal cans and bottles. Green-up Day 2008 will be on

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Saturday, May 3rd, 2008. Green-Up day Trash Bags can be picked up at the Westford Town Office the week before. For more information feel free to contact Conservation Commission member Julie Elmore at 878-6812 or [juliekelmore@gmail.com](mailto:juliekelmore@gmail.com).

The Westford Conservation Commission Stewardship Program was created on July 12th, 2007 to provide stewardship services and help monitor designated open spaces in Westford. The Program Steward will work with landowners and town government offering information on sustainable and proper uses of open spaces and easements. Conservation Commission member, Mark Peloquin was appointed the Program Steward.

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### CONSERVATION COMMISSION ACCOUNT

(Pre-Conservation Fund establishment)

**Year Ending June 30, 2007**

CASH ON HAND - July 1, 2006	\$2,608.95
T-shirt sales	388.00
Interest earned	<u>118.35</u>
	\$3,115.30
T-shirt printing	(1,146.40)
CASH ON HAND - June 30, 2007	<u><u>\$1,968.90</u></u>

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### CONSERVATION FUND

(Established March 2004)

**Year Ending June 30, 2007**

CASH ON HAND - July 1, 2006	\$6,273.81
Tree sales (net)	1,423.79
Interest earned	259.21
Donations	<u>60.00</u>
	1,743.00
TOTAL	<u><u>\$8,016.81</u></u>
CASH ON HAND - June 30, 2007	<u><u>\$8,016.81</u></u>

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