

## **Center Harbor Conservation Commission (CHCC) Annual Report 2015**

In 2015, the Conservation Commission continued its efforts to preserve and protect the high quality land and water resources throughout the town despite the resignation of several long time members.

Initiatives during 2015 included:

- The passage of 2 warrant articles at Town Meeting 2015 granting the Conservation Commission OPTIONAL POWERS which authorizes them to contribute Conservation Funds to support land procurement projects without having to hold a legal interest in the properties and allowing the Conservation Commission to disburse monies from its Conservation Fund to support land projects that occur outside of its municipal boundaries.
- Completion of the 2014 update of the Natural Resources Inventory, which encompassed an extensive remapping project.
- The purchase of a conservation easement from the Lakes Region Conservation Trust (LRCT) on a 42.7 acre parcel adjoining the existing Fogg Hill conservation land which expands the total amount of land conserved to 235 acres.
- Co- sponsoring (with the Waukegan & Winona Watershed Protective Association) the LRCT mushroom walk to the Fogg Hill Bog led by Rick Van De Poll.
- Providing resources and input to the Planning Board for development of a final draft of the proposed Water Resources Ordinance which will appear on the March 2016 warrant.
- Collaboration and communication with the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Environmental Services (DES) to provide them local environmental documentation supporting the community preference of repair of the Snake River/ Mosquito Bridge (in lieu of replacement), thereby helping to preserve and protect the Snake River Prime Wetland complex.

The CHCC is actively seeking Center Harbor residents to volunteer for membership in the Town's Conservation Commission – there are openings for up to FIVE (5) Commissioners and additional Alternates. Should you wish to learn more about the activities of the CHCC, please contact the Selectman's Office or attend one of its meetings. Because of its reduced membership, the CHCC currently meets on an "as needed" basis. Meeting notices, Agendas and Minutes of its meetings are on-line at the Town's web site.