

## Currier-Sanborn Conservation Area purchased by Belmont Conservation Commission

The Belmont Conservation Commission (BCC) announces its purchase of the Currier-Sanborn Conservation Area, a significant parcel of conservation land between Silver Lake, the Winnepesaukee River, and Northfield. The property was purchased from the Sanborn Family Trust, descendants of the long-time owners of the property for \$125,000. The BCC used monies from the Conservation Fund as well as grant funding to help offset costs to the Town. Grants were received from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP), the New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program (ARM), and a State Conservation Committee Conservation Grant (Moose Plate).

Highlights of the 85-acre property are its half-mile frontage along the Winnepesaukee River, a significant marsh/flood-plain forest that ranks as “most significant wildlife habitat in the state”, a portion of the Tioga River, frontage on Silver Lake and it abuts another conservation parcel – the Tioga River Wildlife and Conservation Area previously purchased by the Town. Together the parcels total 273 acres. The property is a mixture of woodlands, marsh, and floodplain-forest. As are all of the BCC managed properties, it is open to passive recreation, hunting, and fishing.

The Five Rivers Conservation Trust (5RCT) holds a conservation easement on both of these parcels, collectively known as The Tioga Marsh, ensuring their undeveloped, protected status forever. 5RCT, headquartered in Concord, New Hampshire, is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving open space across the greater Capital Region of New Hampshire.



LCHIP awarded Belmont a \$57, 227 grant for the property’s protection. LCHIP is an independent state authority that makes matching grants to NH communities and non-profits to conserve and preserve New Hampshire's most important natural, cultural and historic resources.

The ARM grant of \$42,496 was awarded based on the protection value of the wetland and contributing upland on the property. The ARM fund is collected from applicants who have impacted significant wetlands where on-site mitigation is not possible and have made an in-lieu fee.



The BCC received a \$7,500 Moose Plate Grant to offset the administrative costs of the conservation easement. The NH Conservation License Plate (Moose Plate) Program supports the protection of critical resources in New Hampshire, including scenic lands, historic sites and artifacts, plants and wildlife.

The BCC Conservation Fund receives 100% of the Land Use Change Tax, the 10% market value penalty when land is converted from Current Use. The Commission has used the Fund to protect a number of significant properties throughout town since it was established. The BCC manages just about 700 acres of property that has either been purchased or given to the Town. Properties fronting on the Tioga River have special significance to the BCC’s conservation priorities.





