

# Green Maps Natural Resource Inventory



## Program Identifying Our Resources

The 'Green Maps' project, a town wide natural resource inventory report has been spearheaded by commissioner Bill Chellis. Working diligently for the past year Bill has drawn on a wide range of local, state, federal and other data sources to create the Green Map. The program inventories all of the natural and man-made resources in Beacon Falls offering many uses including identifying all of our resources and remaining tracts of unprotected open space. It also follows long-term growth changes assisting town planners



Conservation commission members from left to right, Jeff Goerig, Anita Goerig, Chris Bielick, Chris Yarnarella, Rich Minnick (Land Use Board) Diane Betkoski and Bill Chellis.

to better manage those resources in the future.

In addition to identifying our natural resources the report will also identify our cultural resources and infrastructure that woven together connect the people of Beacon Falls.

This program is a tool we can use for a better tomorrow. **We plan to wrap up the report**

**later this year.** Join us during our monthly meetings, the first Monday of every month at 7:30 PM in Town Hall. We look forward to meeting with and hearing from you.

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## Storm Drain Marker Program

### Protecting Our Waterways

In 2009 the conservation commission took up the call from DEP mandating that all towns put into place a Storm Water Management Program. The program is designed to help protect our waterways. Under the direction of commission member Joseph Mylen a team of dedicated volunteers answered the call.



Patrick O'Dell and his fellow troop members (pictured above) installed 675 markers! The scouts worked toward their Eagle Scout rank.

The scope of this project included marking approximately 874 storm water drains. To meet this challenge Joe divided up the neighborhoods and actively solicited volunteers. The SDM program is now more than 80% complete.

“The success of this program lies with Eagle Scout leader Patrick O'Dell and his scouts who took this project head-on marking over 77% of the storm drains.”

The commission recognizes and thanks the volunteers who participated by placing markers on storm drains including Tanya Guttierro, Laurie Mylen, and the Boy Scouts of Beacon Falls Troop #104. Troop leader

Volunteers who wish to participate in the upcoming season can contact the Conservation Commission for more information.

## Get Connected. For Your Health. Get Outdoors.

by Diane Betkoski

Gina McCarthy, *Former Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection*, spoke at our Community Forum in October 2008. The theme of her presentation was 'No Child Left Inside.' Her message though simple was important — encouraging towns to work toward Connecticut's Goal of setting aside at least 20% of open space for its citizens to enjoy. Persuading children to develop a relationship with nature and the outdoors was paramount in her discussion.

As a healthcare professional, I continually see the effects lifestyle choices have on the health of people young and old. As chair of the conservation commission I challenge you to put down the TV remote, log off the computer and get outdoors. Reacquaint yourself with your neighbors and your neighborhood. Take a walk and admire the species in these locations. Visit Toby's Pond or walk along the River Park.

Take advantage of the beautiful town in which you live and experience this gift of open space and discover all the good it can do for you.

## Conservation Commission Remembers Ed Jurzynski



The conservation commission and the town of Beacon Falls lost a dear friend and dedicated conservation member, Ed Jurzynski in 2009.

Ed was committed to the advancement of open space and conservation. A member since the commission's inception over a decade ago, Ed served in varying capacities including

Chairman, Vice-Chair and commissioner. In 2007 Ed was awarded "Conservation Commissioner of the Year" by CACIWC. A well deserved honor. His work will continue on into perpetuity.

A granite bench was dedicated in Ed's memory at the grand opening of *Toby's Pond and Recreational Park* for all to enjoy.

Toby's Pond and Recreational Park  
2010

CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION of BEACON FALLS

Protecting. Preserving. Making a Difference.



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# CONSERVATION COMMISSION *of* BEACON FALLS

“We can never  
have enough of  
nature.”

*Henry David Thoreau*

*The commission  
meets the first  
Monday of the  
month at 7:30pm  
in Town Hall.  
Meetings are open  
to the public.*

## Letter from the Chair

Our second issue of **CONSERV** features exciting information and articles about our community and the strides we have made over the past year.

Firstly, the Land Use Board has transferred two open space properties, located at Lantern Ridge and Bonna Street to the Conservation Commission for their management.

Secondly, we are pleased to report that **Toby's Pond & Recreational Area** (picture on cover) is the latest asset to be added to our town's community resource listing.

In addition to the *Open Space* and *Toby's Pond* articles, this issue of **CONSERV** also features interesting articles on the *Regional Greenway*, *Storm Drain Marker Program*, *For Your Health*, and the *2010 Plan of Conservation and Development*.

Please join us during our monthly meetings, we look forward to sharing information with you. We hope you enjoy this issue of **CONSERV**.

Sincerely,

*Diane Betkoski*  
Diane Betkoski



Diane Betkoski

## Envisioning the Future

Members of the Land Use Board, including conservation commission members have been asked to serve as advisory associates working with town planners to develop the *2010 Plan of Conservation and Development*.

The state mandates that a *Plan of Conservation and Development* is updated every ten years. Town officials plan to do a comprehensive plan utilizing information offered by the conservation commission, land use board and local/state associations. An indepth focus on the future of Beacon Falls is the objective.

## Future of Beacon Falls

A public meeting is scheduled on May 26<sup>TH</sup> at 7:30 PM at the Beacon Falls Senior Center. The focus of the meeting is “Envisioning the Future of Beacon Falls.” Input gathered during the meeting will be considered while updating the plan. We hope you can join us.

## The conservation commission is made up of the following volunteers:

Diane Betkoski, *Chairperson*  
Anita Goerig, *Vice-Chair*  
William Chellis, *Secretary*  
Chris Bielik, *Commissioner*  
Jeffrey Goerig, *Commissioner*  
Joseph Mylen, Sr., *Commissioner*  
Christian Yanarella, *Commissioner*

## Open Space Management

During the last quarter of 2009 the Conservation Commission became the proud stewards of two open space parcels, a milestone for the commission. The properties, Lantern Ridge and Bonna Street are beautiful assets to the town's conservation plan. It is our top priority to determine the best usage of both of these properties.

## Key to Managing Open Space

Understanding the characteristics of the property is key to managing open space. Parcels that feature marshland with swamps, or open fields, are craggy and mountainous, feature streams or ponds, offer scenic overviews or are populated with wildlife are important characteristics to consider for community usage.

## Toby's Pond: Nature Abounds

In October 2009 *Toby's Pond and Recreational Park* became the latest addition to Beacon Falls resources, thanks to a generous donation from O&G Industries. The park features over 45 acres of pristine water front property, walking paths and a boat launch for non-motorized watercrafts. It has become a sanctuary for numerous species of birds, including a family of Osprey. The osprey, also known as the fish hawk, have nested along side the railroad track and can be seen as you walk the path on Toby's Pond. Come and enjoy the natural beauty surrounding our community. The park entrance is located at the bottom of Old Pinesbridge Road near the pump station. Please use the park with caution and at your own risk.

## Checklist for Open Space

We have formulated a checklist to document our findings as we do fieldwork walking open space property. It will assist us in determining the best use of the town's resources. On Saturday, April 24<sup>TH</sup> conservation commission members led by Rich Minnick began to mark and document the Lantern Ridge open space property. When the marking is complete a final determination of the public's use, active or passive will be made public.

## New Ordinance on Open Space

A new ordinance for managing open space and limiting the town's liabilities has been drafted. It will be adopted by the town this spring after a public hearing. This ordinance will serve as protection on any open space property where the usage has not been clearly defined.



## Regional Future of the Community Greenway

**"Greenway" means a corridor of open space that protects natural resource's, preserve scenic landscapes and historical resources.**

They offer opportunities for recreation of non-motorized transportation and may connect existing protected areas. Greenways may be located along a defining natural feature, such as a waterway, along a man-made corridor, including an unused right-of-way, traditional trail routes and may be a green-space along a highway or around a village.

## Naugatuck River Greenway

The future of our community for a greenway is being developed. A routing study, spearheaded by COGCNV for the **Naugatuck River Greenway** through the towns of Beacon Falls, Naugatuck, Watertown, and Thomaston has begun. The study is part of an effort to build a 44-mile multiuse recreational trail along the Naugatuck River. A consultant team led by *Alta Planning+Design* will complete the routing study by early summer 2010.



Town leaders First Selectman Susan Cable (r) and Naugatuck Mayor Bob Mezzo (l) review potential greenway route merging the two communities. Also pictured is State Rep. Theresa Conroy (l) and State Senator Joe Crisco (r)

This study will do the following:

- ◆ Identify important destinations,
- ◆ Research potential issues,
- ◆ Recommend a precise route,
- ◆ Provide greenway cost estimates,
- ◆ Recommend phasing for construction.

“We presently have a grant allocated for the development of the ‘streetscape’ project going south from the Depot Street Bridge. This is a projected portion of the greenway,” First Selectman Susan Cable stated. “The development of the Greenway has my support one hundred-percent. I envision future growth and prosperity to the town as a result of the traffic it will bring to Beacon Falls. We will work to secure more grants to ensure its steadfast completion.”