

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

Introduction

Because North Hampton lies on the fringe of metropolitan Boston, pressure to grow and develop has been and will continue to be a critical issue for decades. North Hampton faces the challenge of maintaining the balance between developing the Town and protecting ecological, social and economic values that create the exceptional quality of life residents enjoy. Desirable development achieves this balance.

Clean water and air, open space, biological diversity and a rural New England seacoast character and heritage are a few of cherished values urban growth threatens. Community surveys conducted by the Planning Board in 1998, 2005 and 2010 have repeatedly and emphatically made clear that residents of North Hampton value the environment, natural resources and open space. Overwhelmingly residents have supported initiatives permanently to conserve open space and to protect natural resources, such as wetlands, aquifers, forests, wildlife, and farmland.



The extraordinarily high value residents place on environmental conservation and preservation has, perhaps, been best expressed at the polls. In 2001 over 70% of voters authorized a \$4.0 million bond to protect land from development by acquiring easements or fee interests in land. In 2003 over 60% of voters voted to adopt a zoning ordinance amendment to increase the wetland buffer to 100 feet for all wetlands. In 2006 over 80% of voters voted to adopt a comprehensive “Water Resources and Aquifer Protection” ordinance. In 2008 over 75% of voters voted to adopt a “Conservation Subdivision Design” ordinance. With both their expressed opinions and their ballots, therefore, residents of North Hampton have indicated over time that they place extremely high value on their environment and natural resources, and they are eager to support work to protect them from excessive development.

Too often, people consider open space merely to be land not currently being used for economic gain or residential development. The values of open space are often overlooked. Undeveloped land provides many benefits: 1) recreation; 2) buffer areas between developments; 3) screening that hides unsightly features; 4) pleasant scenery, visual relief, maintenance of rural character; 5) food production; 6) wildlife habitat; 7) soil and other natural resource conservation; 8) air purification and production of oxygen; 9) water retention, purification, and recharge; and 10) flood control.

Economic Benefits of Open Space

It is a common misconception that development, and thus growth in the tax base, necessarily produces lower taxes. Planning professionals and public officials, however, recognize the economic value of open space. For example: “Revised Technical Bulletin 6” from the New Hampshire Office of Energy

and Planning (Winter 2000), titled “Preserving Rural Character: The Agriculture Connection” under the subheading “Economic Value of Open Space” says:

Several studies have shown the high economic value contributed by land in open space. Each acre of open space land (not built up, excavated, or developed) provides \$1,500 of economic benefit to the state and community, according to “The Economic Impact of Open Space In New Hampshire” . . .

Studies conducted in eight New Hampshire communities (and over 50 communities nationwide) show that lands in agriculture and other open-space uses pay more in taxes than the costs to the community to provide the services needed by those lands. The opposite is true for residential land. The same studies have shown that residential properties do not generate enough in taxes to pay for the services required by those properties. . . .

Open space is an important economic indicator according to the Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire’s (BIA) *1998 Economic Opportunity Index*.

Open space is important to the state’s character and quality of life, and the state’s economy.

Economic studies demonstrate that open space can be and very often is an economic asset. Hence, towns are planning more intensely than ever before for protection of developable open-space lands and are considering or have made significant investments in local land protection efforts. Studies conducted in several New Hampshire communities have conclusively shown that median-valued homes are taxed less in towns with more undevelopable land per year-round resident. Further, an extensive cost-of-community-service study conducted in Fremont and Deerfield, NH, confirmed that for every dollar of tax revenue, the associated community costs were, in Fremont: residential, \$1.04; commercial-industrial, \$.94; and open space, \$.36. In Deerfield, the costs were: residential, \$1.15, commercial-industrial, \$.22 and open space, \$.35.

Besides the tax benefit of preserving open space, there are, for North Hampton, many other long-term benefits, one of the most significant of which is avoidance of the need for a municipal sewerage system. The more land that we consume for housing, the greater burden we place on our fragile land structure for the cleansing of effluent, forcing us ever closer to requiring a sewer system. In a 1990 feasibility study, Underwood Engineering estimated that a minimal system for the Town’s needs would cost many millions of dollars. Further, the study stated that the overall cost to residents of constructing and maintaining a sewer system would exceed the costs of maintaining individual septic systems.

A second benefit of open space is the storage area it provides in the event of a storm of the magnitude of the one the Town experienced in October 1996. With the Little River Marsh and its constrained opening to the sea at that time some 36,500,000 cubic yards of water were contained in its 156 acres. Had it not been for continual development in the Little River Watershed over the preceding years, much of this storm water would have infiltrated into the soil or have been stored up-river, and thus extensive flooding of many homes and roads in the watershed and surrounding low-lands would have been mitigated naturally.

In 2002, after years of work -- under the auspices of the Conservation Commission, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, and with 75% state and federal funding -- the Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Project was completed. The existing single, relatively small culvert under Ocean Boulevard was replaced with twin six-foot box culverts that allow much freer tidal flow in and out of the marsh. This

project not only alleviated the potential for flooding during storm events, but it also began the restoration of the health of the marsh and began to address the problem of mosquito breeding in the marsh.

In 2010 completion of a smaller restoration project, again funded largely by state and federal governments, further improved the flushing of the marsh with salt water during cycles of the tides, thus extending the restoration of the health of the marsh and further improving control of invasive plant species and mosquito breeding.

Conservation Achievements

Since adoption of the 1989 Master Plan, the Conservation Commission has continued to be very active in preserving open space by acquiring land rights through outright gifts and purchasing conservation easements and fee interests in land. The Town of North Hampton is comprised of 8,923 acres, of which, by soil survey, 37% (3,302 acres) is wetlands. As of January 1, 2011, through various means of protection -- state, and Town ownership for conservation purposes, conservation easements, private land trusts, etc. -- North Hampton has under permanent land-use restriction 1,376 acres, about 15.5% of the Town's total land area.

The North Hampton Forever Program, founded in 2000 and authorized formally by voters in 2001, is the most notable conservation achievement since the 1989 Master Plan and, possibly, in the history of the Town. The following table summarizes the land acquisition projects completed by the North Hampton Forever Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission during the period 2001 to 2010.

Property Owner	Acres	Closing Date	Property Conveyed	Acquisition Price	Donation or Bargain Sale Value	Federal Funds	NHF Funds	Appraised (or Assessed) Value
Metalious	18	5/2002	Easement	\$105,000			\$105,000	\$105,000
Wollmar	14	12/2002	Easement		\$270,000			\$270,000
D'Urso	15	12/2003	Fee	\$200,000	\$155,000		\$200,000	\$355,000
Cahill	51	12/2003	Easement		\$1,025,000			\$1,025,000
Treat	103	2/2004	Fee	\$300,000	\$70,000		\$300,000	\$370,000
Ebert	19	8/2006	Easement	\$250,000	\$1,666		\$250,000	\$251,666
Demogenes	51	12/2006	Fee	\$385,000			\$385,000	\$385,000
Woods	2	12/2006	Fee	\$60,000	\$114,200		\$60,000	\$174,200
Luff/Tagupa	84	1/2007	Fee	\$1,400,000		\$1,400,000		\$1,400,000
Robie	161	8/2007	Easement/Fee	\$1,438,000	\$27,000		\$1,438,000	\$1,465,000
Dalton	16	9/2007	Fee	\$215,000	\$45,000		\$215,000	\$260,000
Donais	23	10/2007	Fee	\$23,000			\$23,000	\$23,000
Jenkins	25	5/2009	Easement	\$450,000	\$75,000	\$249,600	\$200,400	\$525,000
Corbett	74	12/2010	Fee	\$545,000			\$545,000	\$545,000
Totals	656			\$5,371,000	\$1,782,866	\$1,649,600	\$3,721,400	\$7,153,866

Within North Hampton there are numerous parcels of land that are valuable, undeveloped properties. A list of protected and undeveloped land owned by the Town, State or private land trust is provided on Table C-1. These parcels are shown on the Conservation Lands Map that follows Table C-1. Some of these parcels are unused, vacant properties, many of which are landlocked. Several parcels may have potential

for recreational use. In order properly to use these parcels and identify other important areas for focusing preservation efforts, the Conservation Commission has, with the assistance of the Rockingham Planning Commission, completed a natural resources inventory.

Conservation Grants and Non-Town Funded Professional Projects

Many of Conservation Commission programs have been completed with minimal expenditure of Town tax funds. Although in most cases grant funding requires a grantee match, the Commission has completed projects with in-kind matches of existing parcels values, volunteer manpower and resources and conservation bond funds.

Among these programs were:

1. Little River Contamination Testing, Monitoring and Corrective Actions

Through funding and manpower support in 2009 and 2010 from the DES Watershed Assistance Section Program, the testing of water quality along the Little River enabled the Town to identify contamination “hot spots” along the river. Because the Little River is classified as an “impaired waterway” by the State, it is important to monitor levels of *e-coli* bacterial contamination, which can lead to health issues among the public, particularly if the bacteria enters drinking water supplies. The NH DES and US EPA conducted this program, and it identified locations along the Little River that required further monitoring. Of note, areas in the river’s headwaters and around Mill Pond were found to be high in bacterial levels. One incident in the headwaters involved the discovery of raw sewage leaking into a storm water drain that controlled flow to the river. Immediate corrective action was taken to mitigate this problem when it was found. This program is ongoing.

2. Wildlife Study of Key Conservation Parcels in North Hampton

Through a grant from the Fuller Foundation, a Wildlife Habitat Assessment and Natural Resources Inventory was completed by UNH Cooperative Extension Wildlife Department researchers to identify and classify natural resources, wildlife habitat and invasive plants in key large conservation parcels in Town. The results of the study indicated very favorable conditions for sustaining plant and animal habitat, but it raised concern with the continuing encroachment of invasive plants. The Study gave specific recommendations for preserving the wildlife habitat and guidance on mitigating the spread of invasive plants.

3. Public Awareness Newsletter Program

With a grant from the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (“PREP”), a public information and awareness program was developed to disseminate a Town-wide newsletter describing the importance of wetlands and wetlands buffers for protecting drinking water aquifers. In addition, the newsletter gave an overview of significant groundwater aquifers in North Hampton and steps for protecting these aquifers. The newsletter further highlighted deterioration of wetlands and wetlands buffers and subsequently drinking water, from continuing increased levels of surface water run-off from residential and commercial development in or near wetland buffers.

4. Conservation Audit and Stewardship Plan

Through a Grant from New Hampshire Estuaries Project (now “PREP”), in 2007, an audit was done of the Town’s conservation parcels, including a comprehensive update of the inventory of conservation

parcels in North Hampton which have been recorded as burdened by Conservation Easements or as Town-owned in the Rockingham Registry of Deeds. This Audit Report identified the parcels and indicated their ownership, stewardship and general characteristics. This project improved the record keeping about important conservation land, ensured that proper third-party stewardship monitoring capabilities were in place, identified further opportunities for conservation land uses and streamlined the updating of the Town's Conservation Land Maps. It also made recommendations for improved stewardship procedures for maintaining conservation parcels. Because the Town adopted Wetland Conservation and Conservation Land Zoning Districts as regular zoning districts in 2009, this Conservation Land Map is now an essential element of land-use planning and regulation in Town.

5. Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Phase II

In 2009, funding from the NH DES Coastal Program, along with assistance from the New Hampshire Natural Resources Conservation Service ("NRCS") supported a project to extend the outer reaches of the Southwest part of the Little River Salt Marsh. The purpose of the project was to reduce flooding, replace invasive plants with native salt marsh plants and improve the natural marsh habitat by enhancing tidal flow through the marsh. It further promoted the natural watercourses for salt water fish habitat and for mitigating the escalation of the mosquito larvae population. The project was completed in 2010.

6. Winnicut River Water Quality Assessment by Fuller Foundation Grant

In 2010, the Winnicut River Watershed Coalition was awarded a grant from the Fuller Foundation to assist in development of a long-range plan for protecting the water quality of the Winnicut River. Since the headwaters of the Winnicut River begin primarily in North Hampton, the grant specified that one-half of the grant funds be used to conduct baseline water quality testing in key sampling locations along the river in North Hampton. This project is scheduled begin in spring, 2011.

7. Wetlands Buffer Assessment

In 2008, the NH Estuaries Project (now "PREP") funded a project which directed Vanasse, Hangen Bruslin Environmental Services to conduct a Scientific Review of the Importance of Wetland Buffer Analysis. This report described the importance of buffers and wetlands functions in improving surface and groundwater quality and highlighted specific wetland buffer issues for major watersheds including the Winnicut River and Little River as well as the Little River Salt Marsh. It concluded:

Failure to recognize the wetlands functions and buffers can result in significant costs to the community, including costly property and road damage due to flooding, pollution of surface waters, pollution of groundwater and wells, loss of valued native plant and animal species followed by the invasion of nuisance species and loss of community aesthetics and character.

8. The North Hampton Forever Grants

A total of \$1,649,600 was paid by the US Government in grants to support purchases of conservation land and/or easements. As part of the North Hampton Forever program, funding was provided to purchase two significant conservation parcels.

In 2007, the US Government's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program ("CELCP") funded the \$1.4 Million purchase of the 84-acres Forest Hills Farm, owned by Richard Luff and Antonia Taguppa. In-kind Match was provided by the value of other conservation land previously acquired by purchase or donation.

A second grant was awarded to the Town in 2009 for the purchase of a 25-acre conservation easement on the Jenkins farm on Exeter Road. This \$249,600 grant was provided by the US Federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program ("FRPP").

Watersheds

Within the Town, there are two major watersheds: the Winnicut River, which drains into Great Bay, and Little River, which provides the major headwaters of the Little River Marsh. The divide for these, approximately, is the Blue Star Turnpike, (Interstate 95): streams and wetlands east of this road drain into Little River, and streams and wetlands west of the road drain into the Winnicut River.

Winnicut River Watershed

The Winnicut River is a tributary of the Lamprey River and forms part of the Great Bay estuary. To further identify and delineate the critical importance of this wetland and its adjacent open spaces, the Town participated in a study of the Winnicut River Watershed. This study was funded by federal, state and Town funds, with North Hampton's Conservation Trust Fund contributing \$6,000.

Within the Winnicut River Watershed, the Conservation Commission now has under protection over 700 acres, over 480 acres of which were acquired by way of the North Hampton Forever Program. These protected areas provide water resource protection and an undisturbed wildlife corridor of several miles. The Commission will continue its efforts to put land under easement or public ownership along the Winnicut River from the Hampton town line to the Greenland and Stratham town lines to provide an even more extensive greenbelt for wildlife and recreation.

Little River Watershed

The Little River drains a watershed that is about seven square miles in size, occupying most of the remaining potentially developable land in the Town of North Hampton. In the Little River watershed, the Conservation Commission controls development rights on over 825 acres, including much of the Little River Marsh. The North Hampton Forever Program provided the vehicle for acquiring rights to over 170 acres in the watershed and thus added significantly to the extent to which the watershed is protected.

The Conservation Commission, with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, spearheaded a full study of the Little River Marsh. This study, conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service, the NH Department of Transportation, the NH Office of State Planning, and others, determined engineering requirements, not only to restore the marsh to its original healthy saltwater condition, but also to relieve floodwaters and help control mosquito breeding. The restoration projects noted above, completed in 2002 and 2010, have made considerable progress toward the goal of restoring the marsh to its natural condition.

Bass Beach Marsh

Consisting of approximately 40 acres on the North Hampton - Rye town lines, this marsh has been degraded by a restricted outlet to the sea at the old trolley bridge and by water retention ponds constructed

on an adjacent property. The Conservation Commission has undertaken studies similar to those conducted on the Little River Marsh, with the objective of restoring this marsh. Opposition from abutters to required engineering work has, for the present, postponed implementation of any restoration projects.

Natural Resources

Salt Marshes

Part of North Hampton's unique coastal resources are its Little River and Bass Beach salt marshes. Salt marshes are important for a variety of natural processes.

Two thirds of the commercial fish and shellfish catch live part of their life cycle in salt marshes, using them as a nursery or breeding ground.

Marshes provide habitat for a large diversity of wildlife.

Marshes provide flood control, pollution absorption, shoreline stabilization, erosion control, recreation and education and visual aesthetics.

A marsh is about 6-7 times by weight more productive than agricultural land.

The coastal ecosystem is one of the most crucial areas in need of preservation. Degradation of a salt marsh is indicated by invasion of fresh and brackish water plant species, intensified mosquito breeding, and change or lack of certain wildlife species.

Forests

As residential development has proceeded, North Hampton has experienced a steady loss of forested land. According to the University of New Hampshire's Department of Forest Resources, North Hampton had 4,940 acres of forestland in 1953, 4,420 acres in 1974, and 3,315 acres in 1982. In 2010, according to Rockingham Planning Commission data, only 3,016 acres were left. The Town should seek to have forest lands of manageable size (greater than ten acres) preserved and used for their many aesthetic, environmental, and economic benefits.

Under the North Hampton Forever Program more than 300 acres of forested land were preserved. The voters subsequently designated one acquisition under this Program as the "Dalton Town Forest." This Town forest is named in honor of Glendon and Kelvin Dalton, who sold the 16-acres parcel to the Town in a bargain purchase and sale agreement.

In the vein of using conservation lands for educational purposes, the Commission has encouraged young people in Town to work on conservation lands under its sponsorship. The large tract behind the school was planted and seeded by students in various grades to foster its re-forestation and to further educate our youth about the importance of conservation. Further, the Commission has worked with various

departments from the University of New Hampshire that have provided hands-on evaluations of many of sites, while initiating and underwriting needed studies of many acquisitions and donations. The Commission has also worked in concert with organizations such as the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire and the Rockingham County Conservation District to ensure that protected conservation land is monitored and properly protected in perpetuity.

Proper management allows multiple forest uses. The goals and strategies of proper management are best described in a forest management plan, which describes the administration of public resources and provides continuity in the forest's management. Moreover, a forest management plan may enable the Town to obtain for federal assistance for forest management practices through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS). Through a management plan, forest stands have greater timber yields, and thus produce greater revenues from wood sales. If Town lands are well managed, townspeople are more apt to support the Town forest activities and may choose to deed their forested lands to the Town or manage their own lands better.

The University of New Hampshire, the County Extension Service and the Town Tree Warden can assist in the preparation of a forest management plan. The plan will include the location, history, descriptions of timber stands and site factors (i.e., wildlife, water, soils), maps, forest management objectives, management recommendations, and a schedule for plan implementation.

The management plan will be flexible in order to reflect any changes in the Town's objectives or needs. Typically, the plan is reassessed every five to 10 years. The Town Tree Warden evaluates the effectiveness of the program, collects new data, and revises the plan or makes new recommendations.

Farmland

Though the amount of land in North Hampton that is actively being farmed has significantly decreased in the last two decades, approximately one-fifth of the Town contains very good agricultural soil. The USDA Soil Conservation Service has classified agriculturally productive land best suited for producing food, feed, forage, and fiber crops into two categories: 1) prime farmland -- which has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply to produce sustained high yields; and 2) farmland of statewide importance -- which exhibits some properties, such as erodibility and drought, that exclude them from prime farmland.

As with forestland, North Hampton is experiencing a loss in agricultural land. With only a few sites containing very good agricultural soil, and even fewer farms still active, North Hampton will continue to encourage the preservation of these areas. The North Hampton Forever Program acquired rights to approximately 200 acres of farmland and, therefore, made a significant contribution to the Town's efforts to preserve this valuable resource.

Wetlands and Floodplains

North Hampton is subject to periodic flooding as a result of coastal storms. Low-lying areas adjacent to rivers and brooks -- **if adequately protected from development or as developed** -- can provide temporary water storage during floods, thus serving as a natural flood control.

An analysis of North Hampton's wetlands and flood plains, appears in the Water Resources section of this Master Plan. Their many benefits include: wildlife habitat; silt and nutrient absorption; stabilization of ground and surface water levels; flood water storage; recreation and education; and visual aesthetics. The wetlands ordinances currently in place must be strictly enforced and strengthened to protect wetlands and their buffer zones.

Prior to 1991, the Town's ordinances called for setbacks from all wetlands of 75 feet. In that year, the Planning Board changed the setback requirement to 75 feet from tidal wetlands and 50 feet from inland wetlands. This action proved contrary to the trend in most towns, which have been increasing wetland setbacks. Inland wetland development can cause as much damage to tributary run-off as development in a tidal buffer zone. In 2003, as a result of advocacy by individual residents and the Conservation Commission and sponsorship by the Planning Board, voters overwhelmingly adopted a uniform requirement of a 100-foot setback from inland and tidal wetlands.

The Conservation Commission will accumulate data about adverse effects of development on wetlands and promote adjustments in our ordinances as they become appropriate. The New Hampshire Wetlands Bureau has done extensive studies in this area. The major problem involves marginal soils: as most sites with good soils have already been developed, remaining sites available for development generally contain large areas of less suitable soils. The less favorable the soil, the greater are the dangers of nitrogen and phosphorous pollution.

Aquifers

As discussed in the Water Resources Management and Protection Plan, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Geodetic Survey, and the Aquarion Water Company have identified and delineated a number of aquifers in North Hampton. The Water Company has 11 wells located in four well fields in Town and provides water to approximately two-thirds of Town residents. The other third of North Hampton's households rely on private wells for potable water, and their water also comes from aquifers. Therefore, protection of our aquifers is vital for the Town, as well as for residents of neighboring towns that rely on Aquarion Water Company for their drinking water.

As noted above, in 2006 over 80% of voters voted to adopt a comprehensive "Water Resources and Aquifer Protection" ordinance. This ordinance, which replaced an earlier, less restrictive one, strengthened protection of the Town's aquifers under land-use regulations.

Challenges the Town Faces to Protect Water Resources

Lapses in enforcement of environmental regulations and local ordinances by both NH DES and the Town itself -- particularly with respect to approvals of applications for various permits and

variances to wetlands setbacks -- watershed protection and environmental degradation from septic failures from inadequate maintenance of septic systems, illicit dumping, filling wetlands, and encroachment on wetlands and wetland buffers threaten vital water resources.

In spite of all the water resources programs and grants to mitigate water resources deterioration, the Town occasionally becomes our own worst enemy by failing to act in the public interest in enforcing the spirit and intent of our regulations and ordinances. The Town also has few resources adequately to monitor its sensitive and extensive natural resources.

Further, the NH DES continues to fail to enforce its own regulations by permitting development in environmentally sensitive areas, especially along the Little River, adjacent to the Salt Marsh, and in the Winnicut River watershed and its headwaters, which are in the Town of North Hampton. Like the Town, the State has resource constraints that make it virtually impossible for the NH DES fully to execute the responsibilities it has been given.

Because the highest quality uplands in North Hampton are nearly built out, little room remains for development except in locations near rivers, streams, or wetlands and within buffer areas. This, in and of itself, if not managed effectively by applying existing regulations or ordinances, is a significant threat to our water resources, especially drinking water.

Methods of Open Space Protection

1. **Option or Right of First Refusal.** If landowners are not interested in any permanent protection method, they may be willing to grant an option or right of first refusal to the Town. An option establishes a price at which the Town could purchase the land any time during a specified period of years. A right of first refusal guarantees the Town the opportunity to purchase the land for a price equal to a bona fide offer from another party. Its notice requirement provides a legal means for the Town to become aware of a potential sale and an opportunity to respond.
2. **Purchase and Resale.** One possible option the Town could consider is the purchase of the property and subsequent resale of all or part with restrictions or limited development opportunities. This option would not apply to donated or purchased land that contains conservation easements restricting such resale.
3. **Bargain Purchase.** Buying land for less than its fair market value reduces the purchase price for the Town and may offer federal tax benefits to the seller.
4. **Easements or Less-than-Fee-Interests: Conservation Easement.** Landowners who do not want to develop their land can sell, sell at a bargain price, or donate a conservation easement to the Town, and yet retain some property rights themselves. A conservation easement places perpetual restrictions on land use and provides for long term enforcement by the Town.
5. **Purchase of Development Rights (Similar to Conservation Easement).** Landowners may sell the development rights to the Town, thereby permanently protecting their land from development.
6. **Regulation and Zoning** - Through land use regulation, North Hampton has already begun to protect environmental quality and public health and welfare. A wetlands ordinance, flood hazard

ordinance, and earth excavation regulations are all administered by the Planning Board and enforced by the Select Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Continue to monitor water quality in the Little River and Winnicut River and their tributaries as an on-going responsibility and priority of the Conservation Commission.
2. Continue to coordinate and cooperate with federal, state and private agencies to preserve and restore the Little River Salt Marsh as results of completed restoration projects become apparent.
3. Renew efforts to restore Bass Beach Marsh and Philbrick Pond and its tributaries and initiate engagement of abutters in the process.
4. Continue to identify critical parcels of open space and explore possible means for protecting them as opportunities arise.
5. Create a forest management plan by 2013.
6. Develop and deliver an education and communication program for residents about the importance of wetlands, rivers and streams.
7. Promote better enforcement of existing statutes and regulations for protecting water and other resources.

APPENDIX

NORTH HAMPTON CONSERVATION MAP