

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

COLD RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE COLD RIVER LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CRLAC) functions to advise the towns of Acworth, Alstead, Langdon, Lempster, and Walpole, New Hampshire on the protection and enhancement of the Cold River and its tributaries. It seeks to enhance public awareness of the issues affecting the health of the river environment.

Activities during 2016 included:

Membership: three new members joined the committee replacing previous retirees: Shawn Brodeur-Stevens from Alstead who is a science teacher in Charlestown and Betsy Stacey also from Alstead who teaches science in the Keene School System. Shawn Bowman comes from Acworth and is chair of their Conservation Commission. He replaces Debby Hinman who was one of the founding members of CRLAC some fifteen years ago and whose knowledge, and commitment has been a great strength of our organization.

Warren Brook: restoration of 900 feet of the brook has been completed. CRLAC was instrumental in identifying the contractor, putting together the bid proposal, and putting together the funding necessary to complete the project. In an effort to make this project as community oriented as possible, CRLAC members got one hundred and twenty 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from all five towns to spend a morning planting 1100 live plants along the stream bed to protect the banks from erosion.

The construction entailed restoring the serpentine shape of the brook and its wildlife habitat. The results of this project are expected to lower the speed of water at high flows and to improve the habitat for fish and other wildlife.

We are grateful for the contribution made by many donors, particularly the Alstead Conservation Commission, NHDES, NH Fish and Game, NH

Charitable Foundation, NH Moose Plate, NH Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, and the Cold River Local Advisory Committee.

Water Quality: two members received training this year for testing. We are currently exploring the idea of using an Antioch student to be an intern to test water quality. Also the Cold River is part of a water quality study being conducted by a Yale University Lab which results will be made available to us.

Bridge carrying 123A over Warren Brook: we have been asked to comment on its design.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frederick Ernst (chair), Deborah Hinman (Acworth), Mitch Harrison, Betsey Stacey, Shawn Stevens (Alstead), Catherine MacDonald (Langdon), Sue Lichy (Lempster), Fred Ernst, Kim Lewis, Gary Speed (Walpole).