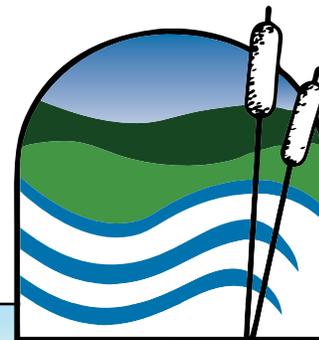


FIVE RIVERS CONSERVATION TRUST

Local Land Trust for the Greater Capital Region of New Hampshire

Fall 2017 Newsletter



The Belknap Range on a clear day at Frisky Hill. Photo by Anne Onion.



Frisky Hill Addition: Expanded View

What a view!

Many people stop by the side of the road in awe of the Belknap Mountain Range view, visible from the top of Frisky Hill on Route 107 in Gilmanton. Now Five Rivers holds a conservation easement on all of the fields that provide the spectacular view.

In September, the Gilmanton Land Trust (GLT) purchased the final 11-acre property that protects the view. GLT donated a conservation easement to Five Rivers Conservation Trust and transferred the land to the Gilmanton Conservation Commission.

Five Rivers holds the conservation easements that prohibit subdivision and development of this and the adjacent

15-ac. property, conserved in 2013. The Gilmanton Land Trust holds easements that protect the view. Five Rivers' responsibility now and in the future is to ensure that these properties remain undeveloped. We'll monitor the property annually and stay in touch with the new landowner, the Gilmanton Conservation Commission, to make sure future uses meet best management practices.

Sincere thanks to the Gilmanton Land Trust who negotiated the purchase of the land and raised the funds to make this project a reality. Five Rivers is also grateful to the Twigg family for their commitment to conserving this property in addition to four others that the family conserved in 2013.

Do take a drive up to Frisky Hill some sunny day this fall. You'll want to admire this view! ■

Frisky Hill Facts

11 acres in Gilmanton, conserved in September 2017

Conservation Easement Donated by Gilmanton Land Trust

Conservation Values:

- Outstanding view of the Belknap Range
- Prime agricultural soils
- Abuts existing Five Rivers easement

Board Chair's Message

By Richard Head



The mission of Five Rivers Conservation Trust is critical – to preserve and protect important open space in the greater capital region of New Hampshire for present and future generations. The fact we are now performing this mission as an accredited land trust through the Land Trust Alliance is simply a national recognition of what has always been

true – Five Rivers meets the highest standards of financial

integrity, ethical conduct, responsible governance and lasting stewardship of conserved lands.

Given our success, with over 4,400 acres of local farms, recreation lands, wildlife habitat, productive forests and important water resources conserved, Five Rivers needs to increase its capacity to sustain the growth it has experienced over the last 29 years. In accordance with our 2017-2021 Strategic Plan (see 5rct.org > News & Publications), we will be working to expand the protection and care of critical local lands; increase community connections; increase our capacity for growth and

Board Chair's Message, cont. page 4

Newly Conserved Hilltop Has New Landowners

By Sarah Crow

Last year, as they pulled up to the top of Cogswell Hill in Canterbury, Chris and Jim Devine knew right away that this was the place for them. “Coming up that long dirt road, and seeing that field and the view – wow,” Chris says. In front of them, a field sloped away downhill, and another field lay beyond, mostly hidden behind a row of trees, with views of Oak Hill and the Uncanoonuc Mountains in the distance. The house, an 1840 Cape, hardly mattered. “We wanted open fields for an apple orchard, a Christmas tree farm, and our cows.”

Thirty-two years earlier, Howard Moffett had almost the same response: On a winter day, two feet of snow on the ground, “we came up this dirt road in Canterbury, out of the woods to the top of the hill, and my heart stopped, I was completely taken with the view,” he says, remembering. “I could see for thirty miles down the Merrimack Valley. It was a bright crystal day, sunshine, blue sky, snow.”

Howard bought the property, restoring the house and living there for the next thirty years. “I never saw myself as more

than a steward of the land, waiting for the next person who would come along and work the land. The fields at the top of the hill are good, fertile soil. It really cries out to be a farm.

But I wasn’t a farmer and felt that I was keeping it for the next person who might work the land.” Last year, when Howard and his wife, Lois Scribner, decided to sell the property, they aimed to preserve the place as a farm. “I wanted to see if I could find a buyer who wouldn’t mind a conservation easement.” Howard began working with Five Rivers’ Rob Knight, Beth McGuinn, and Ken Stern, and worked out a conservation-easement agreement.

Although Chris and Jim Devine were interested in the Cogswell Hill property from the moment they saw it, they worried about the conservation ease-

ment’s details. The easement allows for a snowmobile trail that runs along the edge of the property, and the Devines worried about noise and intruders. “But when we met Rob Knight, he had great insights,” Chris says. They walked the property with Rob and Howard, and learned that the trail – a hilly trail through woods and over streams – was far downhill, away from the house and fields, connecting back to Rt. 132.

“A conserved property is attractive to some people who don’t intend to subdivide the property and know that an easement often lowers the purchase price. Other folks, like the Devines, fall in love with a conserved property and decide to give it a try,” said Beth McGuinn, Five Rivers’ Executive Director.

“I wish I’d done it twenty years ago,” Howard says. Howard and the Devines agree that they all got what they hoped for – fields and a private setting for the Devines to grow heirloom cider apples and Christmas trees, and the promise that the farm that will never be subdivided. ■

Sarah Crow is a professional writer and a long time Five Rivers member who lives in Canterbury.



Productive fields on the Moffett/Devine property. Photo by Beth McGuinn.

Moffett/Devine Facts

56 acres in Canterbury

Conservation Easement Donated by Howard Moffett in June, 2017

Conservation Values:

- 15 acres of important agricultural soils
- Valuable wildlife habitat ranked among the most valuable habitat in the region
- 1600 feet of stream frontage
- Local snowmobile spur trail



Five Rivers is a member-supported nonprofit land trust with a mission to preserve and protect important open space lands for present and future generations. We work in seventeen towns at the confluence of five New Hampshire rivers.

Five Rivers’ Service Area: Belmont, Boscawen, Bow, Canterbury, Chichester, Concord, Dunbarton, Gilmanston, Henniker, Hillsboro, Hopkinton, Loudon, Northfield, Pembroke, Salisbury, Warner and Webster.

The Five Rivers are the Blackwater, Contoocook, Merrimack, Soucook and Warner Rivers.

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Five Rivers Conservation Trust

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Executive Director's Message

By Beth McGuinn, Executive Director



Photo by Kathy Healy.

This summer after a 9.5-mile journey down the Contoocook River, I overheard a young boy say, "Mom, this was the best day ever!" I wondered what triggered his excitement. He had probably never paddled that far in a kayak. Maybe they saw an osprey or painted turtle along the way. Perhaps he just had a great day with his mom.

In any event, it is likely that the

conserved land along the river, where farmland and forestland dominate, made a difference in his experience. The river corridor is peaceful and relatively undeveloped, with a rich

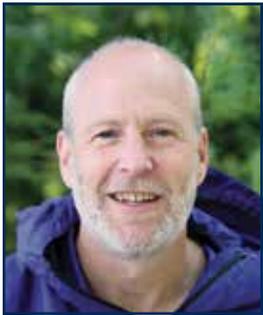
compliment of wildlife. A trip down the Contoocook River provides a new perspective on the area where we live. Five Rivers conserves land for future generations, and this boy's enthusiasm reminded me that today's youngest generation is already reaping the benefits of our efforts.

For the benefit of those future generations, we have committed to being more strategic about the land we conserve – identifying areas that are most threatened and have the highest values for conservation. We also plan to increase the pace of conservation. As with all of our accomplishments, our success going forward will be possible because of your support. Thank you for helping to conserve land for all to enjoy – I look forward to working with you to enable future generations to experience conserved natural areas, local wildlife, and special outdoor adventures. ■

Meet Our New Board Members

In June, we welcomed four new Trustees. Each one has a previous association with Five Rivers, giving them insight as easement donors, project supporters, trail users and founders. We welcome their insight and look forward to their guidance!

Stephen Blackmer, Canterbury



Steve is a founder of Concord Conservation Trust (Five Rivers' predecessor) and the first chair of our Board of Directors. With his family and 5RCT, he conserved his late mother's land in Canterbury. He recently led 5RCT board through our Strategic Planning process. Steve is an ordained Episcopal priest and leads the Church of the Woods.

Maura Adams, Penacook



Maura is a program director at the Northern Forest Center, working in Northern New England and New York. She has a master's degree in Environmental Management from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies. You can often find Maura, her husband, and their dog running or riding the local trail networks!

Sarah Thorne, Gilmanton



Sarah teaches Biology, Field Ecology, and Climate Science at Prospect Mountain High School in Alton. She worked for 20 years as a land conservationist with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and the Trust for NH Lands. She lives on the small farm that she and her husband conserved with Five Rivers.

Wayne Stadelmann, Dunbarton



Wayne is a plastic surgeon who lives on his gentleman's farm. He developed his love of the outdoors by exploring rural Wisconsin. He has a firm understanding that once land is developed it likely will be "lost" at least during his lifetime. Conservation of important wildlife habitat and land stewardship are of prime importance to Wayne. ■

Support Five Rivers Today!

Five Rivers supporters make local land conservation possible. Please help us grow! With your membership, quality of life in the Greater Capital Area can be even better!

- \$50 \$150 \$250
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 I'd like to support the Land Conservation Specialist position with a 3 year commitment to donate \$ _____ per year

Name: _____

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Please clip this form and mail it with your check:

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BOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE *Cont. from Page 1*

update our governance and internal operations. Our plan includes adding a land conservation specialist to our staff and increasing conserved land by 50% to 6,000 acres.

Our planned growth will lead to new opportunities to conserve important new properties which could otherwise be lost forever.

We are successful because of your support. I, along with all of our Board members and staff, have the deepest gratitude for what you do to help us achieve our goals.

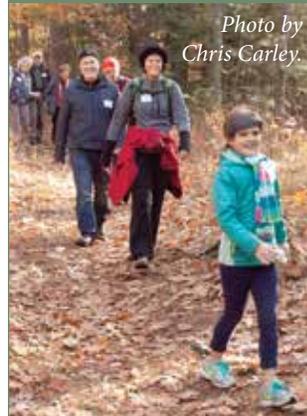
Every Five Rivers' member can help us expand. Tell your friends, family, co-workers or anyone else you know about Five Rivers. Invite someone who has never heard of Five Rivers on a hike on one of our local trails. Give someone a bottle of milk (in a real milk bottle) produced at Bohanan Farm or stop by Diamond Hill Farm, Carter Hill Orchard or any one of a number of local conserved farms with a friend who has a passion for good food, local ingredients and productive farmland. Check out our website (5rct.org) and explore the lands you have helped conserve. Attend our events that highlight a conserved property. Tell everyone you know about us and invite them to help. Don't make Five Rivers your little secret. ■

Take a Hike! Join Five Rivers

Sunday, November 5, Concord, NH

Start times between 12 Noon & 1 p.m.

For a guided hike between
Winant and Swope Parks



- ✓ 1.6 miles between Winant and Swope Parks
- ✓ Optional: 1.7 miles around Winant Park
- ✓ Two educational stops along the way
- ✓ Shuttle to start point provided
- ✓ Family Friendly
- ✓ Please, no dogs
- ✓ Refreshments after hike

Suggested Donation:
\$5 at event

**Space is Limited—
Registration Required**
by Thursday Nov 2
at 5rct.org > Events

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