



FRIENDS OF TROUT POND NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY, 2003

WARRANT ARTICLE #17: ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF A TOWN FOREST?

Petitioners of the Town of Freedom are submitting a warrant article to see if the town will vote to support efforts to save a large tract of land from development.

The Friends of Trout Pond (FTP), and the Green Mountain Conservation Group (GMCG) have been actively pursuing the purchase of the roughly 2,000 acre property, known as "Trout Pond" for preservation as "open space" and designation as Freedom's "Town Forest".

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), a national non-profit organization committed to helping communities create a "greenprint for growth" by protecting important land that may be threatened by suburban sprawl, has teamed up with FTP and GMCG to purchase the Trout Pond property from its current private owner. Once the deal

is completed, FTP and GMCG have 3 years to raise the funds needed to re-pay The Trust for Public Land. Specifically, the warrant article #17 reads:

"To see if the town will vote to go on record to support efforts to save Freedom's largest remaining contiguous tract of land known as Trout Pond from development;

- Parcel 1- 1,750 acres, Map/Lot 006/002;
- Parcel 2- 148.5 acres, Map/Lot 011/03;
- Parcel 3-75.5 acres, Map/Lot 011/001;
- Parcel 4-4.5 acres, Map/Lot 011/001-01;

and to ask the Conservation Commission, the Selectman, and the Planning Board to support

efforts to have said tract, Trout Pond, to be used as a Town Forest that will guarantee public access, protect the wildlife habitat and water supply, preserve Freedom's rural character and in time, generate revenues from timber sales.

A YES vote would be to establish support for the town forest.

You may have attended a presentation in the past regarding the Trout Pond property. If not, please make note that the Friends of Trout Pond and the Green Mountain Conservation Group will host an informal educational session on March 6, 7pm, at the Freedom Town Hall.

At anytime, please feel free to contact members of the Freedom Conservation Commission, Ed Reed, or Jennifer Molin to learn more.

SOME FACTS ABOUT FREEDOM

- SQ.MILES = 37.9
- ACRES = 22,180
- SURFACE WATERS = 2,082 ACRES
- SHORELINE OF GREAT PONDS = 22.52 MILES
- PROTECTED LAND = 521 ACRES (2%)
- Land in Current Use = 10,284 acres
- Tree Farms (10) = 810 acres
- Water Supply Land = 4,435 acres
- # Rare Species and natural communities = 27

(AS OF 2001)

Growing Support for the Town Forest

"It's the right thing to do"

Cubby Brooks

"This is a great opportunity"

Chuck Depew

"Once land is gone, it's gone forever"

Katie Gove,

Conservation Commission



Winter settles in on Trout Pond

BENEFITS OF A TOWN FOREST

**PRISTINE
PONDS ARE AN
“ENDANGERED
SPECIES”.**

**HELP US
PROTECT OUR
TROUT POND
FOR FUTURE
GENERATIONS!**



The majority of towns in Carroll County own and manage tracts of land referred to as Town Forest. Freedom does not. The purpose of the town forest is to encourage the proper management of the timber resource, enhancing wildlife habitat, protecting water quality, offering education and recreational opportunities to the general public and to help ensure the retention of the rural character of the community.

In the 13th century, town forests originated as large tracts of land granted to European towns by their rulers. In the United States, the first town forest was designated in 1710 by the town selectmen in Newington with the purpose of preserving some of the town’s valuable natural resources from development and overuse. This precedent has resulted in the establishment of town forests throughout the country. But not in Freedom. There are numerous reasons to support the concept of towns owning land.

- The timber industry is im-

portant to the local economy and character of life. Sustainable forestry on the town forest would benefit the timber industry

- As rural communities become more developed, it becomes more critical for us to take action now to preserve forested land.
- Town forests provide an area of ecological stability that helps protect soil, and provide clean air and water.
- Town forests provide the public a guaranteed access to undeveloped space for recreation such as hiking, jogging, hunting, skiing.
- Town forests provide an educational tool to demonstrate responsible forest and wildlife management.
- The sale of forest products guided by the development of a long range natural resource plan, can, in time easily offset the loss of property tax revenue generated from the parcel.

In the town of Freedom;

Between 1990-2000, approximately 13 building permits were issued per year.

As of Dec. 9, 35 building permits have been issued just for 2002.

In the town of Freedom;

Between 1990 and 2000 the population grew 39.4%. In the lakes region it grew 15.8%

In the town of Freedom;

Only 2% of the town land is preserved.

In the town of Freedom;

The Trout Pond tract sits atop one of New Hampshire’s most productive and vulnerable drinking water aquifers.

WHY?

Freedom and the surrounding communities are experiencing a boom in development. People are being drawn to our quaint community to enjoy the majestic beauty of the mountains for skiing, hiking, and biking. The clear lakes and flowing streams create opportunities for boating and fishing. The open space and forests provide the most natural habitat

for wildlife and hunting. This is an exceptional place to call home.

But our rural country setting is in jeopardy. The lands that we have been using for years for public use and enjoyment are being threatened. Our water supply is in danger of being polluted or depleted. The lands that have been without regulation for years are being abused by misuse or

illegal activities.

We have seen trees cut down and tracts of land sub-divided. These once open spaces are being replaced by new homes. As of Dec. 9, 2002, 35 building permits have been issued by the building inspector. In the previous 4 years, there was an average of 19 per year. Freedom is in the process of changing.

Recent studies in New Hampshire show that residential development can create significant increase to town costs. These increases will eventually trickle down to the taxpayer in the need for : more police protection, new schools, new roads, and more fire protection. We need to invest in our town’s future and choose to support the preservation of “open space”.



WHERE?



Trout Pond is a tract of land of about 2,000 acres. The land is located off of the Ossipee Lake Road. It extends from Freedom into the town of Madison, and also links with The Nature Conservancy West Branch Pine Barrens. This piece of land includes the areas known as the airfield, Jackman Ridge, Trout Pond and Mary's Mountain. This tract of land is also part of the Ossipee Watershed, the largest aquifer in the state of New Hampshire. This prop-

erty is a popular spot for recreation for the residents of the town of Freedom and Madison, as well as visitors to the region. Depending on the season, one may see people hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross country skiing, hiking or using ATV's. Trout Pond itself is about 21 acres in size and is one of the few undeveloped water fronts in our area available for public enjoyment. Imagine this land, gone to developers!



January 2003 LCHIP Tour



How?



By creating a Town Forest we will provide an opportunity for the community to participate in the stewardship of this property, leaving a most important resource for future generations.

This area has not only been enjoyed but has been neglected and abused. We can provide the protection that the land needs while giving the town the opportunity to restore and

manage a sustainable Town Forest. With proper stewardship, a town Forest will allow us to guarantee timber harvesting in perpetuity, continue with compatible recreational activities that have been traditional for the land, provide educational opportunities for our children and community, as well as income.

The Friends of Trout Pond in partnership with Green

Mountain Conservation Group and the Trust for Public Land have worked with the Freedom and Madison Conservation Commissions, the Freedom and Madison Selectmen, and the Freedom Planning Board and others to protect this property. Federal and state grants have been submitted. Fundraising has begun through the efforts of Friends of Trout Pond.

ESTABLISHING A
TOWN FOREST
CAN
STRENGTHEN
THE SENSE OF
COMMUNITY BY
ADDING TO THE
QUALITY OF LIFE

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- *BECOME AN ADVOCATE FOR A FREEDOM TOWN FOREST*
- *ATTEND EDUCATIONAL MEETING MARCH 6, 7PM (Town Hall)*
 - *VOTE AT THE TOWN MEETING*
- *LET THE SELECTMEN KNOW YOU ARE IN FAVOR OF A TOWN FOREST*
- *CONTACT "FRIENDS OF TROUT POND" TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT*

P. O. Box 259, Freedom, NH 03836 or email: ereed@adelphia.net



FRIENDS OF TROUT

P. O. Box 259
Freedom, NH 03836

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

S. Effingham, NH

Permit No. 10

Postal Patron

Freedom NH 03836

**HELP US PRESERVE
“OPEN SPACE”**

VOTE “YES” FOR TOWN FOREST

Educational Meeting

Thursday, March 6, 2003, 7pm

Freedom Town Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2003, 9:00am

Place: Freedom Town Hall

More information inside.



The airstrip and Ossipee Lake

Please Note: Although we have not officially started fund raising for the purchase of this property, if you would like to make a donation to help us offset administrative expenses, please designate your tax deductible contribution for Friends of Trout Pond, and mail it to:

**Green Mountain
Conservation Group**
P. O. Box 95
South Effingham, NH 03882