

HANOVER CONSERVANCY



Protecting land & water in our community

FISCAL 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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THANK YOU. Our supporters and friends make the Hanover Conservancy's programs possible.

CORPORATE CONSERVATORS

Baker Orthodontics
BE Fit Physical Therapy
Chase Brook Software
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KLG Financial Solutions
Jim Block Photography
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Lyme Timber Company
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Mascoma Savings Bank
Wells Fargo Capital Finance



HANOVER CONSERVANCY

*Protecting land & water
in our community*

*Cover photo: Mill Pond's protected
shoreline on Moose Mountain,
primary source of Mink Brook
Left: New tamarack cones at a
Shumway Forest wetland
Unless noted, all photos by HC staff*

FOUNDATIONS

The Jack and Dorothy Byrne
Foundation
Elizabeth Parkhill Charitable
Trust
Emily Landecker Foundation
Crowell Family Foundation
The following funds of the NH
Charitable Foundation:
Barrette Family Fund
Upper Valley Community
Fraxinus Fund
Vermont Community
Foundation

OTHER BUSINESS FRIENDS

Big Green Ts
Boloco
Game Set Mat
Hanover Lions Club
Hanover Yoga
Inner Lift Yoga
King Arthur Flour
Lou's Restaurant & Bakery
Main Street Kitchens
Norwich Square Café
Nugget Theater
Picaboo
Ravenmark, Inc.
Red Kite Candy
Skinny Pancake
Stonehouse Mountain Mapping

COMMUNITY FRIENDS & PARTNERS

Children's Hospital at Dartmouth
(CHaD)
Connecticut River Conservancy
The Conservation Fund
Dartmouth Ecological Methods class
Dartmouth Outing Club
Woodsmen's Team
Etna Library
Hampshire Cooperative Nursery
School
Hanover Conservation Commission
Hanover Historical Society
Hanover Improvement Society
Hanover Parks and Recreation
Howe Library
Kendal at Hanover
Land Trust Alliance
NH Audubon, Mascoma Chapter
NH Dept. of Environmental Services
Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership
Richmond Middle School
Sierra Club of the Upper Valley
Trescott Company
Trust for Public Land
Upper Valley Land Trust
Upper Valley Mountain Bike Assoc.
Upper Valley Trails Alliance
Vermont Center for Ecostudies
Vermont Institute of Natural Science
Vital Communities of the Upper
Valley
Winter Center for Indigenous
Traditions
Youth in Action

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends –

My family and I spent a wonderful week in New Hampshire's White Mountains in August, enjoying those amazing peaks just a short drive away. We returned to Hanover feeling grateful that we also have beautiful places to hike and roam right in our own backyard — including the 313-acre Shumway Forest, the Hanover Conservancy's newest and largest conservation project!

Ensuring that open space is available for future generations first requires thoughtful and farsighted landowners — and then the behind-the-scenes efforts of many individuals and organizations. The Conservancy has been fortunate to work with countless conservation partners over the years: “backyard partners” like the Town of Hanover and its Conservation Commission, Dartmouth College, and the Upper Valley Trails Alliance; grant providers like the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership and the NH Department of Environmental Services; and local wetlands scientists, GIS experts, botanists and foresters.

Other partners are the many neighborhood volunteers who generously contribute their time, in any weather, to clear debris, build new trails and bridges, and remove invasive plants. With the Parks & Rec Department we again offer the fun family Trails Challenge; and we've expanded our partnerships with Hanover schools, annually awarding a Hanover High School scholarship and working with the Richmond Middle School to take students outside for river studies. And of course, critical partners are our generous members and donors, whose financial contributions allow us to continue our mission to “protect land and water in our community.”

We hope you regularly visit our website to download our latest DIY hikes, note upcoming events, and find opportunities for support. THANK YOU for being our partner!



Kristine McDevitt, *President*



Celebrating our 56th year, the Hanover Conservancy is an independent private, not-for-profit, membership organization. While not affiliated with the Town of Hanover, the Conservancy partners frequently with the Town and other local and regional organizations.

The oldest local land trust in New Hampshire, the Conservancy strives to protect the land and waters of our community through land conservation and stewardship, education, and advocacy for conservation-oriented public policy.

MAJOR PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FY 2017: July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Community Engagement

This year, the Connecticut River became the laboratory with a new school program, thanks to a major gift from Dr. Robert Christie. In-school multi-media presentations prepared sixth grade Richmond Middle School science students for field trips to experience the river at the newly opened Kendal Riverfront Park. With the same gift, we began planning the launch of a new experiential environmental program for KAST (Kids After School Time).

We enjoy sharing Hanover outdoors with anyone who wants to come along, and our **trips program** took some new directions this year. We offered free trips that ranged from a family hiking day on the Appalachian Trail to a spring fern walk on Moose Mountain. The vast Trescott Water Supply Lands remain a prime destination, this year with a fall forest ecology tour, a winter wildlife tracking trip, and walk back into time in May, hiking the historic Wolfeboro Road and visiting

cellar holes. Armchair programs included presentations by Dr. Anne Kapuscinski (Dartmouth and Union of Concerned Scientists), Brian Hotz (Forest Society and Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership), historian Jay Barrett, and a screening of the documentary “Queen of the Sun.”



Sixth grade science students investigate the Connecticut River at Kendal Riverfront Park.





Richmond Middle School science students joined Dr. Christie and Executive Director Adair Mulligan on the riverfront.

Our **Hanover Hikes of the Month** were such a hit with those wanting to get outside on their own time (and so much fun for us to create), that we continued the series, offering detailed directions and insights on selected trails suited to shine each month of the year. Find them posted on our website, grab a friend, and go!

The annual **Hanover Trails Challenge**, a Conservancy program with the town's Parks and Recreation Department, draws more families each year on trail treasure hunts. Our

Hanover Conservancy Award again provided a scholarship to a deserving Hanover High School environmental studies student.

Subscribe to our monthly **e-newsletter** and occasional newsletters for Mink Brook and Balch Hill neighbors. Find us on Facebook for updates, events, and photos of our trips and other adventures. You can now follow us on Instagram @hanoverconservancy, or tag our properties when you're out enjoying them! Find trail maps and much more on our website.

OUR PROTECTED LANDS

OWNED BY THE HANOVER CONSERVANCY 374.5 acres

Balch Hill Natural Area – 21 acres
Off Grasse & Hemlock Roads

Greensboro Ridge Natural Area – 113 acres
Off Greensboro Road & Velvet Rocks Drive

**Jim & Evalyn Horning Natural Area at
Lower Slade Brook – 35 acres**
Off River Road

Mayor-Niles Forest – 92 acres
Off Three Mile Road

Mink Brook Nature Preserve – 112 acres
Off Route 10 & Brook Road

**Tunis Brook Mill Lot
– 1.5 acres**
Off Goose Pond Road

PROTECTED BY A HANOVER CONSERVANCY CONSERVATION EASEMENT OR DEED RESTRICTION 565.9 acres

Huntington Hill/Upper Slade Brook – 31.8 acres
Off Hanover Center Road / Owner: private landowner

McKinley Tract – 125.7 acres
Off Wolfeboro & Goose Pond Roads / Owner: Town of Hanover

Mill Pond Forest & Huggins Trail Access – 18 acres
*End of Moose Mountain Lodge Road /
Owner: private landowners*

Moister Meadow – 21 acres
Off Dogford Road / Owner: private landowner

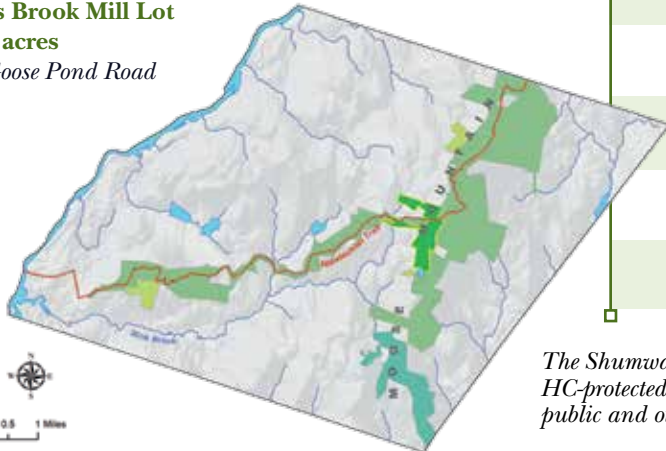
Rinker-Steele Natural Area – 23.6 acres
Off Route 10 / Owner: Town of Hanover

Shumway Forest – 313 acres
Off Three Mile Road / Owner: private landowners

Slade Brook Natural Area – 3 acres
Off Purling Brooks Drive / Owner: private landowners

South Esker – 14 acres
Adjacent to Pine Knoll Cemetery / Owner: Town of Hanover

Tanzi Natural Area – 15.8 acres
Adjacent to Mink Brook Nature Preserve / Owner: Town of Hanover



The Shumway Forest, where the Appalachian Trail meets Moose Mountain. HC-protected lands along the AT and on the mountain appear in light green with public and other privately conserved lands in darker tones.

Land Conservation

This year we protected the largest parcel in our long history – the **Shumway Forest**, 313 acres of forested wildlife habitat, trout streams, and wetlands on Moose Mountain. Laced with over three miles of well-loved trails, including the famed Appalachian Trail itself, the Shumway Forest will now be



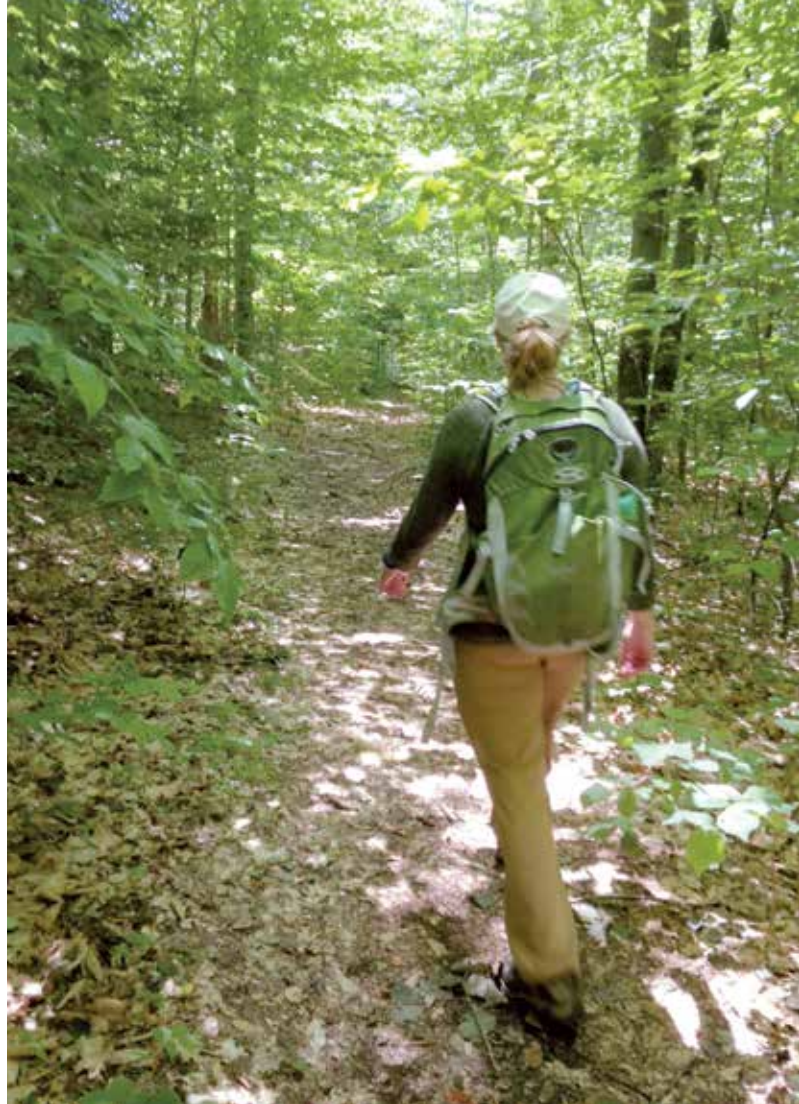
open for the public to enjoy forever, thanks to the generosity and public spirit of the landowners and a major grant from the NH Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund.

The parcel stretches from Three Mile Road to the crest of Moose Mountain and creates a link to other

conservation lands – federal Appalachian Trail lands, town-owned parcels, and the Mill Pond Forest, protected by HC in 2015. Wild brook trout, sundews, spring wildflowers, and sprightly waterfalls are among the glories of this mountainside forest. Research by local wetland scientist Jim Kennedy revealed a variety of uncommon wetlands including a fen, vernal pool, and forested swamps of black ash and red spruce.

We are always working to strengthen Hanover's **resilience to climate change**, and protecting the Shumway Forest is a strong step forward. This new conservation land creates an unbroken protected block of 3,800 acres of cool forest high on the mountain ridge, expanding the space wildlife can count on to escape warming temperatures in the valleys below. Assuring more Mink Brook headwater streams and wetlands remain in their natural condition boosts flood security for the village of Etna.

At the Shumway Forest, trout lilies bloom while Courtney Dragiff explores the Fred Harris Trail.





Nearby in Etna, we were pleased to support the Trust for Public Land and the Town of Hanover as they worked with Dartmouth to protect another part of the Appalachian Trail corridor and a scenic piece of Etna's farm history. The 175-acre **Hudson Farm with its trails** and rolling meadows is now owned by the National Park Service.

At the **South Esker** in Hanover's far southwest corner, where towering pines and hemlocks shade paths along the river, we are working with the Town to assure permanent protection.

We are also active behind the scenes to protect other high-priority parcels in partnership with private landowners. We welcome inquiries from those interested in conserving their land.

Trescott Water Supply Lands

An effective private-public partnership has now emerged to manage recreation on the vast watershed of Hanover's drinking water supply, following our effort to help open these 1,165 acres to the public last year. As a member of this group, led by Tom Jack of our board, we remain committed to helping the public appreciate the gift of access to these lands while respecting rules needed to keep the water supply pure.

This year we researched, designed and provided three interpretive panels to illustrate the fascinating human and natural history of these lands — once the site of the Town Poor Farm, a one-room school, and a vibrant farming neighborhood. Find them near the Parker Reservoir, at Mason's Four Corners, and at the Poor Farm site.

Opposite: A biologist from the NH Natural Heritage Bureau examines plant life in the Shumway Forest's fen. Inset: The Shumways of Moose Mountain Lodge celebrate with HC board and staff.



Top: Winter wildlife tracking trip to the Trescott Water Supply Lands. Photo: Jim Block. Bottom: New interpretive sign at the Parker Reservoir

Land Stewardship

Managing wildlife conflicts demanded much of our attention this year. The Hanover Conservancy has worked hard for many years to educate the Hanover community about how to be good neighbors to native wildlife, including the bears that have long occupied a home range near downtown and Mink Brook. Our area offers excellent bear habitat — Velvet Rocks, Indian Ridge, and forested stream corridors — and bears have lived here since the glacier departed. We've sponsored programs by a variety of bear experts, blanketed inboxes with pleas to take in birdfeeders, stuffed flyers in doors, posted signs, and worked with NH Fish and Game experts and Town officials. The in-town bear family, offered an extravagant buffet of unnatural foods (at birdfeeders and unsecured dumpsters), drew concern when they took a seat at that table. We look forward to supporting the Town's efforts to eliminate food attractants and keep the wildlife wild.

Concerned about deer overpopulation and damage to forest health at Balch Hill, we managed a carefully limited archery hunt from tree stands by special permit. We evaluate this approach after each season. Also at Balch Hill, we established a pollinator patch and conducted surveys of those winged visitors to the hill. Viewshed clearing continued with wood donated to those in need. Planning began for a new trail and a new view, opening this fall.

Stewardship includes monitoring the growing number of conservation easements we hold, to assure that the original intentions for these conserved lands are honored. We thank the generous business sponsors who helped us devote much effort to our protected lands this year.



Top: Bear photo by Nicki Felicetti. Bottom: Butterfly visits an early-blooming golden ragwort at a beaver meadow on the Shumway Forest.

We value the spirit and commitment of our many volunteers, who continue a long tradition of caring for our lands, leading our trips, and helping in so many other ways.

Natural Area Stewardship Committees:

(Balch Hill): Clyde Barbour, Wayne Barstad, Supreet Bauer, Len Cadwallader, Ed Chamberlain, Rob Chapman, Anne Evans, Rebecca Kohn, Gail McPeek, Rob Harris, Ryan Johnson, Barbara McIlroy, David Pollock, Lois Roland, Laura Rosenthal, Sarah Tally; **(Greensboro Ridge):** Wendy Conquest, Alan DiStasio, Doug McIlroy, Jill Kearney Niles, Steve Shadford, Jim Wooster; **(Mink Brook):** Jim Barrett, Bryant and Marilyn Denk, Dave Dostal, Cal Felicetti, Brenda Knight, Jill Marquard, Johnathan Rabkin, Roger Soderberg, Dev Sodhi; **(Slade Brook):** Kathy Harvard, Gail McPeek, Hugh Mellert

Trip Leaders & Program Speakers:

Erek Alper, Jay Barrett, Ed Chamberlain, George Clark, Nancy Collier, Nancy Comeau, Laura Conkey, Courtney Dragiff, Pam Hunt, Tom Jack, Mackenzie Jones, Anne Kapuscinski, Linde McNamara, Gail McPeek, Hugh Mellert, David Merker, Adair Mulligan, Theresa Mundy, Barbara Prince, Carl Renshaw, Alice Schori, Alcott Smith, Andy Timmins, Jim Wooster

Other Volunteers:

Will Berry, Bob Boon, Mary Brown, Laura Conkey, Matt Cronkite, Joe Danna, Morgan Danna, Betsy Eaton, Barbara Fildes, Steve Fowler, Rory Gawler, Mike Hall, Tom Hall, Jim Kennedy, Craig Layne, Jill Marquard, Betsy McClain, Betsy McGean, Linde McNamara, Bill Mlacak, Everett Poisson, Keith Quinton, Cathie Redpath, Laura Rice, Joanna Whitcomb.

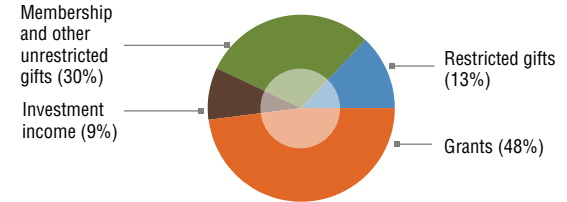


Top: Volunteers from Hypertherm help keep wildlife openings clear at the Greensboro Ridge Natural Area. Bottom: The Conservancy's Stewardship Committee oversees our natural areas all over town.

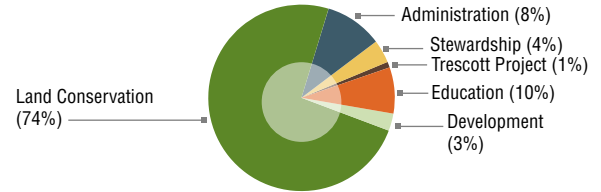
FINANCIAL REPORT *As of June 30, 2017*

ASSETS	2017	2016
Cash and cash equivalents, unrestricted	\$ 260,226	\$ 111,379
Investments	\$ 552,250	\$ 473,370
HC Fund of NH Charitable Foundation	\$ 28,948	\$ 26,690
Land owned for conservation purposes*	\$ 774,296	\$ 774,296
Other (office equipment and land improvements net of depreciation)	\$ 6,015	\$ 6,747
Total Assets	\$ 1,621,735	\$ 1,392,482
LIABILITIES		
Note payable (for Shumway Forest)	\$ 96,050	\$ 0
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	\$ 542,439	\$ 536,782
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 183,951	\$ 56,404
Permanently restricted net assets	\$ 799,296	\$ 799,296
Total Net Assets	\$ 1,525,685	\$ 1,392,482
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1,621,735	\$ 1,392,482
SUPPORT & REVENUE		
Membership and other gifts	\$ 239,263	\$ 98,844
Grants	\$ 272,060	\$ 13,180
Investment Income	\$ 49,960	\$ 5,077
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 561,283	\$ 117,101
EXPENSES		
Programs	\$ 380,179	\$ 101,244
Management and general	\$ 34,342	\$ 40,099
Fundraising	\$ 13,559	\$ 10,737
Total Expenses	\$ 428,080	\$ 152,080
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS		
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	\$ 1,392,482	\$ 1,427,461
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ 1,525,685	\$ 1,392,482

INCOME SOURCES



EXPENSES



Notes:

* The Town of Hanover presently assesses the value of Hanover Conservancy-owned properties at \$1,190,000.

A copy of the 2017 financial statement, prepared by our accountants at Lynn C. Rust, CPA, is available for review at our office.



Sundew glistens in the Shumway Forest fen

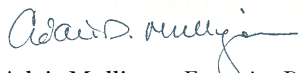
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This was truly a landmark year for the Hanover Conservancy. Our **portfolio of protected Hanover lands** grew by 50% with the addition of the Shumway Forest, the third largest private conservation project in town and the largest in our history. Our **membership swelled** to nearly three times that of a decade ago, more than a quarter of Hanover households (and places beyond). Our **education program expanded** thanks to a foresighted gift and we're now bringing home-grown environmental education to more students in more ways.

We're busy in each region of town — Moose Mountain trails and trout streams, central rural farmlands, and a riverfront forest. When the Town and Trust for Public Land protected the 175-acre Hudson Farm, we were able to contribute significantly by drawing on our Strategic Land Action Fund, established years ago with help from generous Conservancy members. Our gift is now part of the stewardship fund for mowing the meadows and caring for that land.

Program Coordinator Courtney Dragiff brings great energy and imagination to our Education and Stewardship programs. Nearly 90 inspiring volunteers share their time and talents, foremost among them our hard-working board of directors. Energies multiply as we team up with our many public and private partners, from the town libraries, conservation commission, and recreation department to the Upper Valley Trails Alliance and Trust for Public Land, among others. It all makes for deeply satisfying work.

Progress mounts on our strategic plan, VISION 2020, thanks to the confidence and support of the Byrne Foundation and other friends. We hope you'll join us as we pursue our vision of a healthy, natural Hanover.



Adair Mulligan, *Executive Director*



Adair participates in the People's Climate Change March in Washington; Courtney and friends check Mink Brook invertebrates at VINS Water Quality Day





HANOVER CONSERVANCY

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Hanover, NH 03755
(603) 643-3433

www.hanoverconservancy.org

Non Profit Org.

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White River Jct, VT

Permit No. 73



Our annual Kite Day on Balch Hill

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