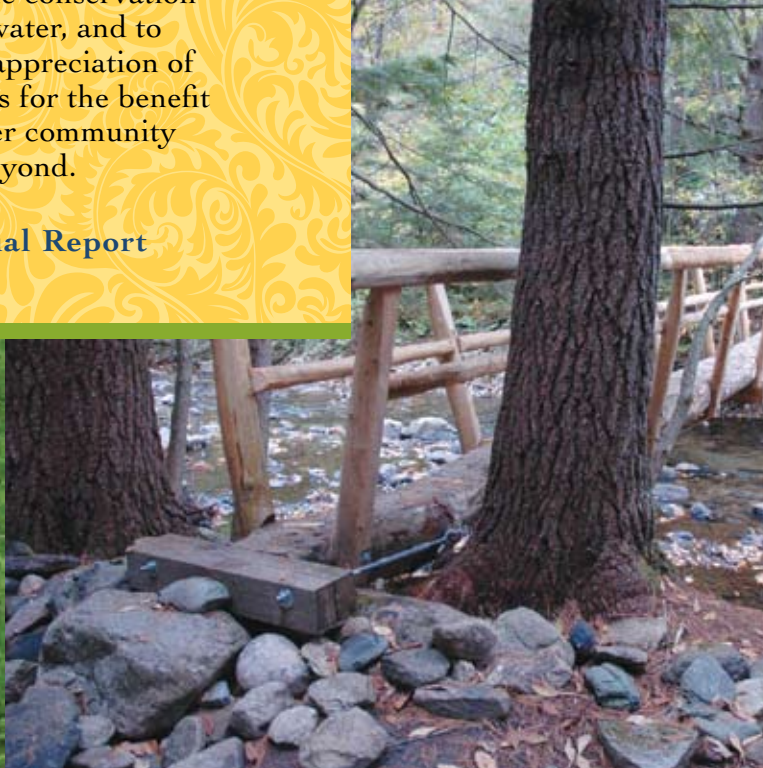
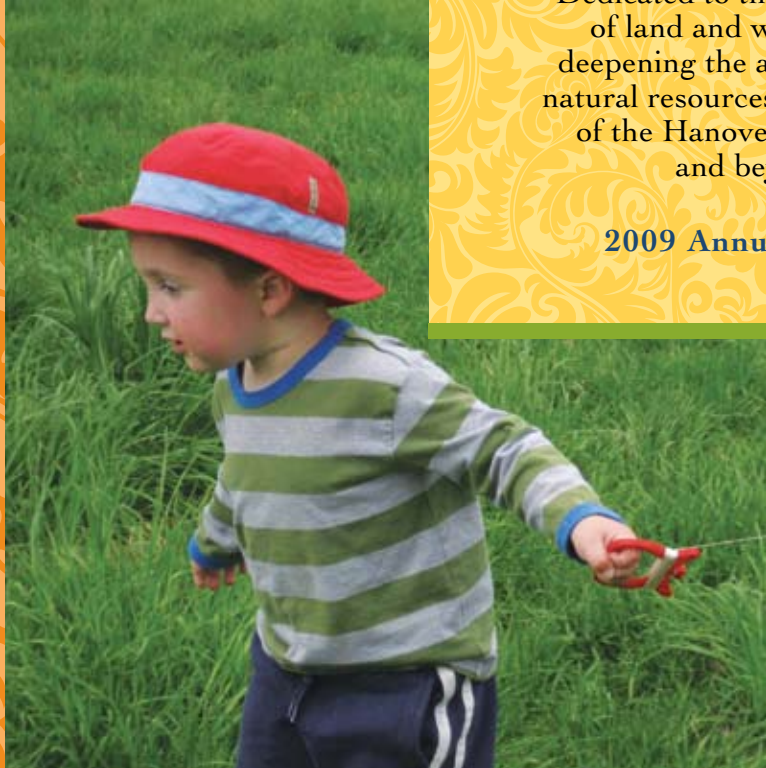




Hanover Conservation Council

Dedicated to the conservation
of land and water, and to
deepening the appreciation of
natural resources for the benefit
of the Hanover community
and beyond.

2009 Annual Report



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The Hanover Conservation Council is dedicated to the conservation of land and water, and to deepening the appreciation of natural resources for the benefit of the Hanover community and beyond.

We achieve our mission through land conservation, active management and stewardship, science-based information-sharing, community education, and support for conservation-oriented public policies.

Thank You

The Hanover Conservation Council programs are possible thanks to our many supporters, volunteers and friends. Thank you for our 46th year of protecting, stewarding and enjoying the special lands in Hanover.

- ▶ 400 Members and Volunteers
- ▶ The Barrette Family Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation – Upper Valley Region
- ▶ The Elizabeth Parkhill Charitable Trust
- ▶ Hanover Lions Club
- ▶ Natural Resources Conservation Service Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
- ▶ National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program
- ▶ Upper Valley Region of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- ▶ Vermont Community Foundation

Community members gather for a morning snowshoe at the new information kiosk at the Slade Brook Natural Area. Winter 2009

Letter from the President

Friends,

The Council has had a busy year with special land stewardship projects, work on a new three-year Strategic Plan, and advocacy for long-term protection of significant lands in Hanover. As we engage the community, we are developing strong partnerships with our members, volunteers and other private and community organizations in order to accomplish our conservation and public awareness goals.



Betsy McGean

At times we have all set our sights on a specific goal, and the unintended results. This was the case over the past year as we launched a concerted effort to build a bridge over the Mink Brook to connect the north and south parcels. Our goal was to build the bridge for easy access across the brook, and the outcome was perhaps even more valuable as we found ourselves building strong community relationships with so many dedicated volunteers. In October,

we gathered at the site to celebrate this achievement. As I looked out across the diverse crowd of people who offered their time and talents to help construct the bridge, I realized what a special community of kindred conservationists we live in. This Annual Report celebrates the community process it takes to build a bridge – a natural piece of artwork in the midst of the forest – and the importance of land stewardship.

As part of our strategic planning, the Council developed a twenty-five year vision in which Hanover continues to be a treasured place to live, work and visit. The community enjoys the natural beauty of Hanover's rural character, including well-managed forests, open fields, healthy rivers and streams, scenic vistas, and public trails close to home. Citizens are involved in protecting and stewarding the natural environment.

Finally, we continue to facilitate the dialogue about long-term conservation options for the water company lands – the largest unfragmented property remaining in Hanover, and essential to the town's long-term drinking water quality. At present, these lands are only protected by local zoning ordinances, and we believe the time is right to explore long-term protection for the future. We have heard from many in the community who agree!

Thank you for your interest and support in helping us achieve our future vision for Hanover. We will continue to work with you to build a stronger community around land conservation and access to special natural places.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy McGean".

Betsy McGean
President



Stewardship: *Taking care of our lands and strengthening community*

A New Crossing

The Council and the community had a vision to build a bridge over Mink Brook to better link the north and south sides of the nature preserve and adjacent trails. The design challenge was to respect the natural setting and the importance of the area to the Native American community.

We are thrilled to report that we did it! Our Mink Brook Stewardship Committee took the lead in engaging neighbors, our friends from Chippers, staff from the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program, colleagues from the Upper Valley Land Trust and a professional trail and bridge builder to develop a plan. Luckily two trees were located just adjacent to the bridge site. An eastern white cedar within easy reach was felled but crashed and split rendering it useless as the bridge tread; it was salvaged for abutments. Fortunately, the second candidate – a white pine – landed softly and proved solid. Volunteers worked from January through June to prepare the log, stripping bark and smoothing the surface. The final step was a three-day effort to hand-winch the log into place over Mink Brook.



The bridge under construction

The bridge across Mink Brook is safe, dependable and beautiful. The process brought together a wide variety of people all who contributed their time and talent to making this project happen. The bridge is a link for the nature preserve and a monument to volunteer cooperation.

A New Kiosk Dedicated to a Long-time Friend

This spring a new informational kiosk was installed on the summit of Balch Hill. The Council and the Balch Hill Stewardship Committee will be using the kiosk to share trail information and activities with the many neighbors and visitors who enjoy the property.



Recently we gathered on the hill to dedicate a plaque to long-time neighbor and volunteer, Alice Jackson. Alice contributed to the community by working as a volunteer on projects involving the environment, conservation and most notably children's environmental education. Alice was an inspiration to all of us in the community and an example of what committed volunteers can accomplish.

Several generations of Alice Jackson's family join in the dedication of a plaque including great granddaughter, Alice.

Advocacy: *Giving voice to land protection planning*

The Council has stepped up its activities this year in public advocacy for conservation planning. We are working to give voice to the importance of long-term land protection to the quality of life here.

Watershed Lands Surrounding the Water Reservoirs

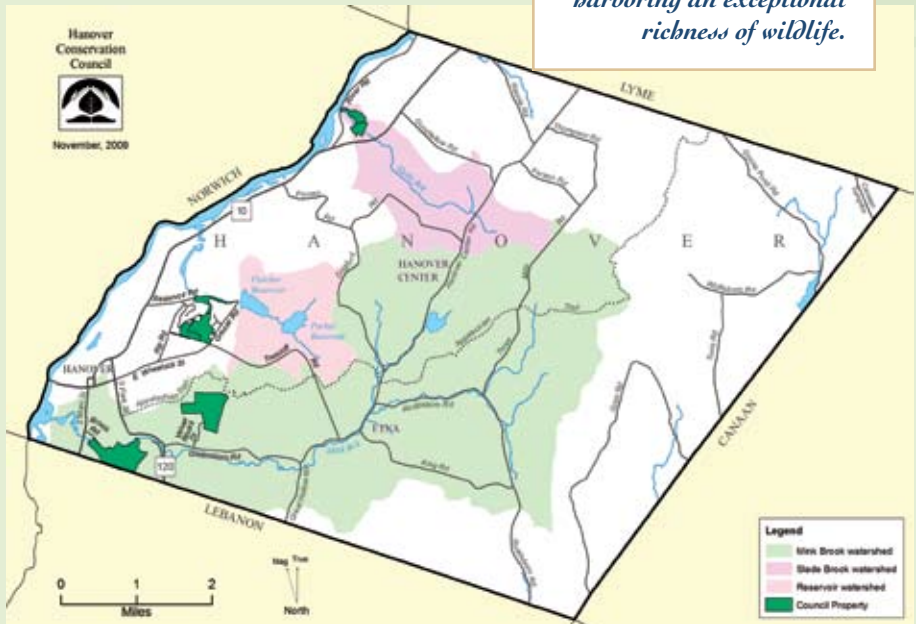
The land surrounding the Hanover Water Works reservoirs is one of the largest contiguous, undeveloped and ecologically significant tracts under single ownership remaining in Hanover. The 1400 acres of watershed land supports well-managed forests, wildlife habitat and high value agricultural soils. The Council has been working to unite the key participants in the Water Works issue for discussions about the future conservation options for this land. Just imagine if this 1400 acre jewel was permanently protected and available for walking, bird watching or snowshoeing. This dream motivates us to continue our public education and outreach work. Stay tuned.

The Route 120 Corridor

This corridor is commonly known as a traffic corridor leading in and out of Hanover. The Council has long been collecting information on the ecological significance of this area beyond the road and the interior contains more than 500 acres of contiguous forest with diverse habitats and natural features. It is truly a unique landscape worthy of protection.

The Council envisions the permanent conservation of this core interior wilderness area with its diverse flora and fauna, fragile wetlands, critical wildlife corridors, and distinctive geological features. To that end, we have begun working to forge partnerships, facilitate discussions, and begin the necessary steps to make this happen for the future of our communities.

The Route 120 Corridor contains extraordinary wilderness areas of astounding beauty and ruggedness, with habitats harboring an exceptional richness of wildlife.



Land protection priorities: Strategic sections of the Mink Brook watershed, including Route 120 corridor; Slade Brook watershed and the Hanover Reservoir watershed. Stonehouse Mtn Mapping.

Education and Outreach: *Working in our community*

Reaching out to the community and engaging them in the land conservation and stewardship process is key to our success. This year we continued to recruit and train new volunteers, and give the community better information on our programs and important conservation issues through our website, electronic newsletters and many community activities.

We expanded our offering of Outdoor Adventures this year by adding new events such as nature photography and exploring the agricultural and Abenaki history at Mink Brook. Our annual events continue to attract community members to kite flying, snow shoeing and skiing and bird watching, all which remain popular.



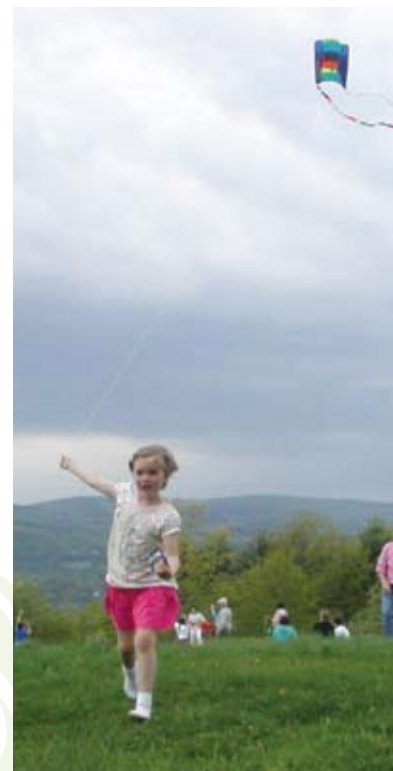
Winter activities with the Council – snowshoeing and working at Mink Brook.

Financial Report

June 30, 2009 and 2008

ASSETS	2009	2008
Cash and Cash equivalents	\$ 551,622	\$ 545,588
Pledges receivable, less allowance	750	26,500
Prepaid rent	433	433
Cash held for permanent endowment	25,000	25,000
Land held for conservation purposes	682,296	682,296
Total	1,260,101	1,279,817
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$ -2,235	\$ 1,283
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	558,336	573,481
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	707,296	707,296
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	1,263,397	1,282,060
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions	\$ 53,718	\$ 136,944
Membership Income	16,945	30,390
Investment Income	8,315	12,700
Total Support and Revenue	78,978	180,034
EXPENSES		
Programs	\$ 66,725	\$ 59,974
Management and General	30,517	25,561
Fundraising	399	740
Total Expenses	97,641	86,275
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$ -18,663	\$ 411,649
Net assets, beginning of year	1,282,060	870,411
Net assets, end of year	1,263,397	1,282,060

Copies of 2009 financial review are available at our office.





Hanover Conservation Council

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