

HANOVER CONSERVANCY

Protecting land & water in our community



FY2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Robert Norman

Photos are shown in order of listing

Adair Mulligan

Executive Director

Myrilla Hartkopf

Program Coordinator

Cover photo: A black and white warbler
pauses among flowering crabapples
at the King Bird Sanctuary in Etna.
Photo by Jim Block

Shown here: Monarch caterpillar,
Balch Hill. Photo by Courtney Dragiff



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(603) 643-3433

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

I hope that many of you had a chance to read the *Valley News*' lovely coverage of the life of Bob Norman, one of the Conservancy's founders, in September. ("A Life: Bob Norman," September 18, 2022). Bob remained an active emeritus Board member of the Conservancy throughout his entire life, volunteering his time and providing advice and insight for decades after helping found the Conservancy in 1961. For sixty years we relied on Bob for his experience, knowledge, and dedication to our community, and we

are eternally grateful for his leadership and commitment to protecting land and water in Hanover.

In reading the newspaper I learned that Bob was not only deeply committed to protecting the environment, but that he was also an activist for many other causes throughout his life. His legacy of activism is inspiring, and there is so much we continue to learn from Bob's example. The Conservancy will forever protect the land and water of our community through land conservation, stewardship, education, and advocacy. We also strive to learn and grow, addressing new challenges in recognition that our advocacy is multifaceted. As described in our recent strategic plan, the ***Promise to Protect***, the Conservancy's core values include not only land stewardship, but also equity, community, and public engagement. Guided by these core values we strive to make the Conservancy and our natural spaces more accessible to all people.

We are also inspired by the many friends who honored their loved ones by making memorial gifts this past year. In addition, bequests from two members ensured their legacy of stewardship into the future. The Conservancy is deeply honored to receive these gifts, and will honor the memories of these friends of the environment by vigorously and faithfully protecting land and water in Hanover, forever.

Heidi Trimarco, *President*



HANOVER
CONSERVANCY



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

Proudly celebrating its **61st year**, the 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.

MAJOR PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FY 2022: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Community Engagement

Our year began with a joyous celebration of our **60th anniversary** and decades of friendship and conservation energy as we gathered under the colorful maples at Rivercrest. Working with talented high school videographer Ezra McGinley-Smith, we produced a video showcasing the Conservancy's work. *Here in Hanover* magazine's fall issue carried a feature article. New Hampshire's oldest local land trust is now headed into its seventh decade.

Land conservation is an essential tool to **address climate change**, and we presented several programs on how we are helping Hanover get closer to the 30 by 30 goal. We added to our new Osher offerings with a course on this topic, and reached out to new audiences with **programs on watershed conservation**: Upper Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a Dartmouth environmental policy class, Connecticut River Joint Commissions, and Upper Valley/Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission.

Self-guided outdoor offerings expanded too, with our new **Spring Wildflower Scavenger Hunt** and two new **Hanover Hikes of the Month**. A record number of families took part in our **Hanover Trails Challenge**, discovering local trails through a treasure hunt for hidden destinations.

BELOW: *We captured a special moment when dozens of current and former board members, five presidents, and staff gathered around Conservancy founder Bob Norman for a commemorative photograph. Bob passed away in June, 2022.*



With **schools** back in session, we were back, too, offering a vernal pool activity for 80 children at the Ray School and explorations for Richmond School students. And each year, the Hanover Conservancy recognizes one or two Hanover High School seniors who are pursuing environmental studies with our **Hanover Conservancy Award**.

BELOW: *Ray School students explore spring aquatic life. Staff photo*



Outdoor trips resumed with guided visits to the new Mink Brook Community Forest and other natural spaces all over town. Happily, Balch Hill's 20th Kite Day flew under brilliant skies as we remembered Susan Harper's inspiration for this family-oriented tradition.

Keep up to date with us on Facebook, Instagram, and our website, and subscribe to our monthly e-news.



Myrilla Hartkopf

MAJOR PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Land Stewardship

As the acres under our protection grow, so do the responsibilities of caring for them. This usually means field work but this year, computers played a part as we transitioned our 60 years of conservation records to a **secure on-line platform**. This will make it easier to track each property and also to record each step in the complex process that results in a parcel's protection.

For easement lands, stewardship means not only annual monitoring but **consulting with landowners** to address and avoid actions inconsistent with an easement. **For lands we own**, it means maintaining boundaries, keeping management plans up to date, and fighting the good fight against invasive plants that degrade habitat. At the Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Youth in Action helped reduce garlic mustard, and a grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service helped with knotweed management. At Balch Hill, we focused on controlling deer and met with our forester about managing the inspiring views. Two eager new volunteers joined the ranks to help.

Kiosks are helpful to visitors, and we added a new one at the Mayor-Niles and Britton Forest trailhead thanks to Peter and Peregrine Spiegel. We also improved the Balch Hill kiosk, thanks to Susan Harper's many friends.

Anyone who has walked on the wild side of Hanover is aware that our **beautiful log crossing at the Mink Brook Nature Preserve** reached the end of its safely useful life. We'd watched it closely and begun planning for its replacement last year. What to do? Get another log? Tropical Storm Irene eroded and widened

"Seeing people out on the trails at Mink Brook has helped our family meet other people, since we moved here during the pandemic and didn't know anyone."

the brook's channel, so we'd need a longer one. We didn't have one big enough at the Preserve, and knew it would last only 10 years anyway. The design must conform to restrictions in our deed, which require that a trail crossing be "temporary or of similarly de minimis construction." That's why a steel beam bridge like those in the White Mountain National Forest isn't possible.

A talented team of Dartmouth's Thayer engineering students came to the rescue, spending the fall and winter terms designing a new, rustic crossing that will blend into the natural environment and be safer for children and dogs. Along the way, we consulted Abenaki advisors and learned much about how the public uses and appreciates the Preserve. We look forward to restoring the trail connection across Mink Brook in the very near future.



Dartmouth students help tidy up a viewshed at Balch Hill. Staff photo.

MAJOR PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Land Conservation

Much of the world is coming to understand what we've known (and acted on) for a long time — that protecting forests is essential for confronting climate change. It's simple — an acre of forest can capture 2-3 tons of CO₂ *each year*, equivalent to taking your car off the road for a year. Always focused on climate benefits of conservation, we're updating our strategic priorities with new data on which landscapes will confer more resilience, whether it's flood or drought abatement, habitat connectivity, or carbon capture.

In 2022 we finally were able to celebrate a major conservation project generations in the making — the Town's new 250-acre **Mink Brook Community Forest** straddling Greensboro Road — first with the public and later in a special visit with U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen. Work on that project with our partners went on quietly for years, and we are similarly engaged in other efforts we hope to share with you in the future.

Looking forward, we expect to acquire a conservation easement on **15.5 acres at Etna's King Bird Sanctuary and the Trescott Ridge Wetlands** in the coming fiscal year. The Town voted to protect this area behind the Etna Library in 2010. Since then, the Conservation Commission has prepared a detailed management plan for the land, and the Conservancy designed and installed the Nan and Allen King Bird Sanctuary on 4.3 acres in an old cattle pasture ringed with stunning stone walls.

We're tracking Hanover's progress toward the **global goal of "30 x 30"** — 30% of our land area permanently protected by 2030 to stave off the worst effects of climate change. Currently 7,320 acres, or 22.8% of the town, is protected. To reach the goal in the next eight years, we must protect another 2,310 acres. At the same time, careful planning must ensure room for needed housing in sensible places. There's much to do!

Blanket of flowering bunchberry on Moose Mountain. Staff photo.



OUR PROTECTED LANDS



Owned by the Hanover Conservancy (453.5 acres)

Jim & Evalyn Hornig Natural Area at Lower Slade Brook – 35 acres

Off River Road

Balch Hill Natural Area – 21 acres

Off Grasse & Hemlock Roads

Britton Forest – 79 acres

Off Three Mile Road

Greensboro Ridge Natural Area – 113 acres

Off Greensboro Road & Velvet Rocks Drive

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 (554.9 acres)

Huntington Hill/Upper Slade Brook – 31.8 acres

Off Hanover Center Road / Owner: private landowner

McKinley Tract – 125.7 acres

Off Wolfboro & 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 – 21.0 acres

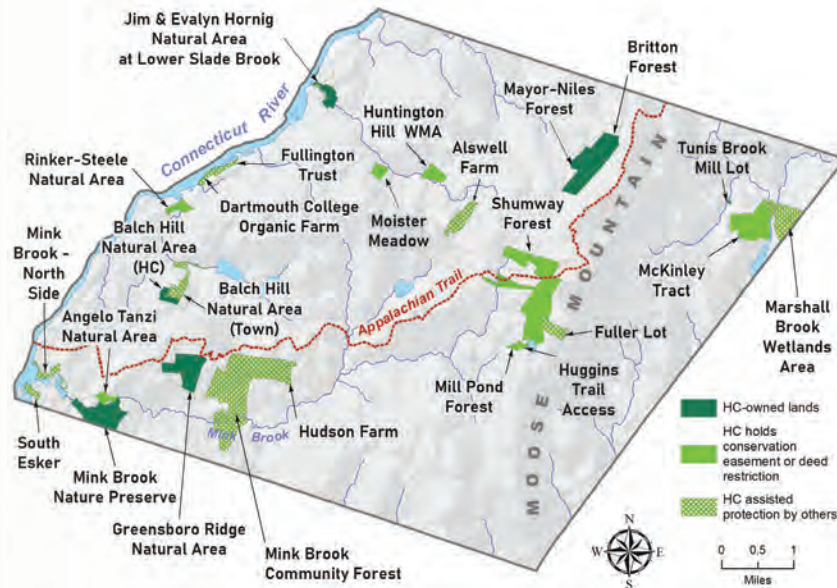
Off Dogford Road / Owner: private landowner

Rinker-Steele Natural Area – 23.6 acres

Off Route 10 / Owner: Town of Hanover

Shumway Forest – 313 acres

Off Three Mile Road / Owner: private landowner



Slade Brook Natural Area – 3 acres

Off Purling Brooks Drive / Owners: private landowners

Tanzi Natural Area – 15.8 acres

Adjacent to Mink Brook Nature Preserve / Owner: Town of Hanover

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This was a year of milestones, beginning with our eagerly anticipated 60th anniversary. The oldest local land trust in New Hampshire is going strong! Indeed, we're stronger than ever, both in our own sphere and as a private conservation partner to the Town of Hanover, now working together to protect Etna's Hayes Farm Park after success with the Mink Brook Community Forest.

Welcoming Program Coordinator Myrilla Hartkopf — with her deep experience in land stewardship — is another milestone gained. She brings new efficiencies, energy, and imagination, moving our land and management records onto our new Landscape digital platform, engaging new volunteers, and creating new adventures for adults and children.

The meaning of our work comes home to us in so many ways — by encountering moose tracks on our mountain lands, dipping toes in clear, cool streams on a hot day, and watching a child lift her kite to a breeze at Balch Hill. A young family recently shared their thoughts with me about the Mink Brook Nature Preserve. "Seeing people out on the trails has helped our family meet other people, since we moved here during the pandemic and didn't know anyone. Now we have met people there and get together with them." It's clear to us — our work builds community.

Another milestone saddened us in 2022. For six decades, Hanover benefitted from a fierce conservation ethic bottled up within a gentle, soft-spoken man. Bob Norman, co-founder and emeritus member of our Board of Directors, was an early driving force shaping a green future for our community. Bob passed away in June, leaving us with a wonderful memory of our 60th anniversary celebration last October.

All of us here at the Hanover Conservancy — our hard-working board of directors, emeriti, volunteers, and staff — are grateful for your support and look forward to seeing you outdoors.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Adair D. Mulligan".

Adair Mulligan, *Executive Director*

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of June 30, 2022

CURRENT ASSETS

| | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Cash & Cash Equivalents, unrestricted | \$ 32,654 | \$ 28,393 |
| Investments | \$ 1,830,048 | \$ 1,471,771 |
| Property & land improvements, net of depreciation | \$ 3,535 | \$ 3,825 |
| HC Fund at NH Charitable Foundation | \$ 32,040 | \$ 36,113 |
| Land held for conservation purposes | \$ 883,296 | \$ 883,296 |
| Total Assets | \$ 2,781,573 | \$ 2,423,398 |

NET ASSETS

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Without donor restrictions | \$ 1,763,534 | \$ 1,399,074 |
| With donor restrictions | \$ 1,018,039 | \$ 1,024,324 |
| Total net Assets | \$ 2,781,573 | \$ 2,423,398 |

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| \$ 2,781,573 | \$ 2,423,398 |
|---------------------|---------------------|

INCOME & SUPPORT

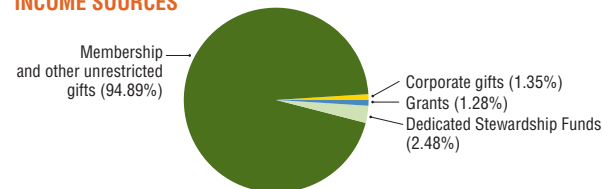
| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Membership & other contributions | \$ 769,803 | \$ 238,482 |
| Grants | \$ 10,000 | \$ 59,837 |
| Investment income net of fees | \$ 27,465 | \$ 24,056 |
| Realized gain on investments | \$ 83,433 | \$ 76,756 |
| Unrealized gain on investments | \$ (318,444) | \$ 113,852 |
| Total income and support | \$ 572,257 | \$ 512,983 |

EXPENSES

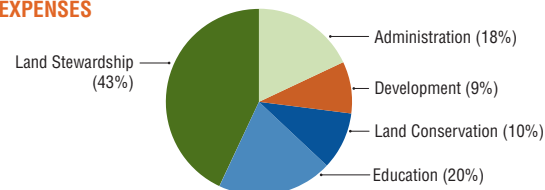
| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Program services | \$ 156,773 | \$ 170,087 |
| Management & general | \$ 38,134 | \$ 42,861 |
| Fund-raising | \$ 19,175 | \$ 20,736 |
| Total expenses | \$ 214,082 | \$ 233,684 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| NET ASSETS, beginning of year | \$ 2,423,398 | \$ 2,144,099 |
| NET ASSETS, end of year | \$ 2,781,573 | \$ 2,423,398 |
| INCREASE IN NET ASSETS | \$ 358,175 | \$ 279,299 |

INCOME SOURCES



EXPENSES



This year, the Hanover Conservancy gratefully acknowledges a major gift of \$600,000 from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation in support of our new strategic plan, Promise to Protect, and the completion of our 60th year of protecting land and water in our community.

A copy of the FY2022 financial statement, prepared by our accountants at Rust & Company CPAs, is available for review at our office.



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

CORPORATE CONSERVATORS

Conservation Hero (\$5000+)

White Mountains Capital

Conservation Leader (\$1000+)

Fisher Financial Advisors

Jim Block Photography

JMH Wealth Management

Lyme Timber Company

ReVision Energy

Corporate Steward (\$500-\$999)

Chippers, a Davey Company

Linde Mac Real Estate, LLC

Neal Wallace Dental

Conservation Partner (\$250-\$499)

BE Fit Physical Therapy

Lou's Restaurant & Bakery

New England Freejacks Rugby Team

Trylon Data Management

FOUNDATIONS

The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation

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The Crowell Family Foundation

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Emily Landecker Foundation

Lubrano Family Charitable Foundation

Mafovsky Family Fund

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation

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Charitable Foundation

Elizabeth Parkhill Charitable Trust

Kevin & Suzanne Schon Foundation

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Coop Food Stores

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Full Circle Forestry

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Law Office of Margaret Jacobs

Mascoma Savings Bank

My Brigadiero

Pathways Consulting

Ramunto's

Ravenmark, LLC

Red Kite Candy

Sierra

Still North Books

Stonehouse Mountain Mapping

The Nugget Theater

Umpleby's Bakery and Cafe



BELOW: L-R: Dartmouth students pull up their sleeves at Balch Hill; a group explores a new trail on the Prescott lands; a young ornithologist on a Conservancy bird walk at Mink Brook. Staff photos.



THANK YOU...

Volunteers

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: Len Cadwallader, Rob Chapman, Hal Coughlin, Luke Dann, Carol Edwards, Anne Evans, Patricia Glowa, Rich Greger and family, Rob Harris, Rebecca Kohn, Don Kollisch, Lois Roland, John Welborn, Christiana Whittington; **Greensboro Ridge:** Jim Coogan, Alan DiStasio, Meg Doucette, Dudley Smith, Jim Wooster; **Mink Brook:** Theresa Ciambra, Cal Felicetti, Brenda Knight, Jill and Bryan Marquard, Irina and Laurent Perreard; **Slade Brook:** Gail McPeck, Hugh Mellert

Other Volunteers – Kari Asmus, Bruce Atwood, Jim Block, Bob Brentrup, Laura Conkey, Joe Danna, Don Esinhart, Scott Farr, Ned Gallagher, Silvia Holman, Robin Kaiser, Jim Kennedy, Betsy McClain, Kristine McDevitt, Janine McGuire, Barbara McIlroy, Linde McNamara, Mary Sloat, Ross Smith, Joanna Whitcomb

Trip Leaders & Program Speakers – Linda Fowler, Myrilla Hartkopf, Barry Harwick, Tom Jack, Jim Kennedy, Gail McPeck, Hugh Mellert, David Merker, Elena Mihaly, Adair Mulligan, Alice Schori, Jeffrey Smith

Thanks To Our Thayer Student Team Of Bridge Designers:

Dylan Chan, Madison Cook, Glendora Murphy, Sacha Pritzker, Michelle Wang, Abigail Wilson; **Faculty Advisor –** Vicki V. May, Thayer School of Engineering, Cook Engineering Design Center

Community Friends/Partners

Connecticut River Conservancy
The Conservation Fund
Etna Library
Hanover Conservation Commission
Hanover Garden Club
Hanover Historical Society
Hanover Improvement Society
Hanover Parks and Recreation
Hanover High School Environmental Club
Howe Library
Hypertherm Associates
Land Trust Alliance
NH Audubon
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Pine Park Association
Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership
Ray School
Richmond Middle School
Sierra Club of the Upper Valley
Sustainable Hanover
Thayer School at Dartmouth
Trescott Company
Trust for Public Land
Upper Valley Business Alliance
Upper Valley Haven
Upper Valley Land Trust
Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association
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





HANOVER CONSERVANCY

*60 years of successful land & water conservation
for our community*

71 Lyme Road
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hanoverconservancy.org



White
Mountains

White Mountains Capital is proud to give back to our community by sponsoring this FY2022 Annual Report and supporting the work of the Hanover Conservancy.

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