

**Coverts Project Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Saturday, Feb. 6, 2009**  
**Farm & Forest Expo, Manchester**

**Attendees:**

Malin Ely Clyde	Ann Davis	Omer Ahern
Matt Tarr	Bruce Schwaegler	Andy Fast
Karen Bennett	Ben Haubrich	Chuck Hersey
Claes Thelemarck	Jeff Tarr	Kristina Ferrare
Martha Pinello	Betsy Hardwick	Emma Carcagno
Betsy Sanders	John Diggins	Dave Falkenham
Eric Feigenbaum	Andy Powell	

10:00 Malin welcomed everyone to the meeting – noting the larger than usual attendance. Highlighting Coverts events in 2009, she detailed:

- training of 26 new Coverts Cooperators
- new “blog” with all Coverts Updates posted
- two alumni field-based workshops in 09 – Gilmanton, Sandwich
- new location needed for Coverts workshop (Sargent Center will close in August 2009) – Committee members offered many suggestions for alternative sites, including:
  - Geneva Woods Conference Center
  - Camp Conniston – Y Camp in Springfield
  - Bear Brook
  - Merrowvista in Tuftonboro
  - New Hampton School
  - Gunstock Ski Resort
  - Scout Camp in Gilmanton
  - Kimball Union Academy in Plainfield
  - Proctor Academy in Andover
- Matt Tarr provided a brief funding update, noting that Fish & Game provides the bulk of the funding for Coverts, but that we are working to diversify that funding through private donations (Quality Deer Management Assoc., Coverts Cooperators), with plans to pursue partnership with the Northern Woodcock Initiative and WFI (could potentially replace the RGS funding, now unavailable, that used to fund the actual workshop and materials)

**Discussion followed, including:**

- General support for Coverts gatherings; Ben suggested a digest or archiving of all Coverts listserv posts; Malin will investigate, though ListProc used by UNH is antiquated, and unlikely to be capable. Members still find listserv useful – Andy got great help with his question regarding town-owned conservation easements, saving his town many weeks of research.

**Coverts Alumni Gatherings – 2009**

- noted snowshoe hike March 7 at Andy Powell’s woodlot in Danbury
- Woodcock program and walk, April 16 in Lyme
- Saving Special Places – Sat. April 4
- Carroll/Belknap Habitat Management Series

### **New Workshops in 2009**

New Critical Habitat Brochures due out shortly – Peatlands, Appalachian oak-pine forests, Lowland spruce-fir forests, and Shrublands. Workshops will accompany these in 2009-2010

### **Wildlife Action Plan Education Proposal**

Malin described project, currently proposed for funding from the Wellborn Ecology Fund, that would pilot outreach about wildlife and habitats, working with Coverts Cooperators and County Foresters (in Grafton and Sullivan Counties, to start). Committee members offered suggestions including:

- Keep in mind that audiences may vary widely, and program must be adaptable
- Volunteers may want to use their own (local) photos
- Outreach will be to “general audiences” – what about schools?

### **New Cost-Share \$\$ to be made available**

Chuck Hersey announced that Coverts Cooperators should be aware that new WHIP and EQUIP money is likely to be made available in the coming months, and that landowners are encouraged to sign up beforehand to “get a place in line.” Malin agreed to post a notice on the Coverts Update.

### **New Wildlife Webpage Content**

We did not get a chance to discuss the Wildlife webpage and planned update but Malin agreed to solicit feedback from Coverts online as this project progresses.