***NHTown* Taking Action for Wildlife**

**Draft Work Plan July, 2014**

| **Activity** | **Notes** | **Who will take on this task** | **Timeframe** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Wildlife & Ranked Habitats Maps** | * Make an additional set and laminate the poster size wildlife maps so they can be used for both planning and outreach and have some longevity.
* Use the existing set of poster size maps as a working set, e.g. for identifying conservation priorities. You can print copies of all map sizes off the CD, or print smaller maps from the [NH Fish and Game website](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/Wildlife_Plan/WAP_town_maps.html)
* Use the Habitats map in public settings. Use the ranked habitats map (pink & green) as a planning map with town boards, as appropriate.
* [Click here](http://drupal.takingactionforwildlife.org/communities/natural-resources-inventories/obtain-and-review-wildlife-maps) for more information about the maps and how to use them.
* Access the figures for what percentage/acreage of town each of the habitats comprise at [NH Fish and Game’s Wildlife Action Plan Maps page](http://www.wildnh.com/Wildlife/Wildlife_Plan/using_maps.htm). (scroll down to the Maps Download box)
 | Joe Citizen, Conservation Commission | July 2014 |
| **Identify Priority Wildlife Habitats in town** | * Using the poster size or 11 x 17 copy of the Habitat map, identify and circle 3-5 wildlife conservation priority areas (see the [Bradford Example of Priority Areas](http://drupal.takingactionforwildlife.org/communities/natural-resources-inventories/obtain-and-review-wildlife-maps/prioritizing-habitats)).
* Using NHTown’s digital tax map, look at this together with the habitats to see the patterns of landownership and parcel sizes
 | Conservation Commission members | August CC meeting |
| **Public Outreach** | * Decide on your goals for protecting wildlife habitats in town, and focus your outreach on these goals, e.g. landowner outreach, public outreach, etc.. Consider a range of activities to get people’s interest, e.g. field walks looking at specific habitats, [Speaking for Wildlife presentations](http://extension.unh.edu/NH-Coverts-Project/Speaking-Wildlife) (indoors), etc. Get ideas from what other communities have done: [Public Outreach & Education about Wildlife - Stories & Examples](http://drupal.takingactionforwildlife.org/stories) on the Taking Action for Wildlife Website.
* **Educate landowners in NHTown** about how they can manage their properties for wildlife habitat, trails, etc.
	+ Landowners can have the county foresters walk their land to find out what they have and discuss how they can manage it.
* Discuss doing the “sticky dot” activity to collect information on wildlife observations in town at a public meeting (e.g. voting day, town meeting, summer events, old home day, etc.). People number their dot that they have placed on a particular location on the Habitat map, and then write down their wildlife observations next to that number on an accompanying note pad. Best to use easy-peel dots so they come off the laminated surface more easily. This activity gets people involved and also starts to generate a list of wildlife observed in town.
 | Conservation Commission | September CC meeting – decide on activities and time frame |
| **Develop a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)** | * Review the suggestions below and think about whether you want to write the NRI yourselves (you would likely need to have a GIS professional generate the poster size maps) or have a consultant work with you to develop the NRI.
* Check to see what regional conservation plans may have been completed by land trusts or land conservation groups.
* Refer to the [NRI Guidelines on the Taking Action for Wildlife website](http://drupal.takingactionforwildlife.org/communities/natural-resources-inventories/obtain-and-review-wildlife-maps/prioritizing-habitats). These provide an updated sample set of maps and other information that is helpful for putting together an NRI.
* At the minimum, your community should have the basic set of NRI maps. The [Table of Basic NRI Maps](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource001863_Rep2670.pdf) provides a list of these maps and their data requirements. You can look at a [sample set of NRI maps for Epping](http://drupal.takingactionforwildlife.org/sample-nri-maps).
* Review [examples of other town’s town natural resources inventories](http://drupal.takingactionforwildlife.org/stories) and how they have incorporated wildlife considerations. In particular, look at the Bath and Hebron wildlife chapters of their NRI’s.
* Refer to the [sample NRI outline](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/index.cfm?e=app.resource&resourceID=3262&updated=true), but feel free to modify it based on your review of other community NRIs.
* You can find information about [incorporating wildlife into your NRI](http://drupal.takingactionforwildlife.org/communities/natural-resources-inventories/obtain-and-review-wildlife-maps/prioritizing-habitats) on the TAFW website:
	+ Put together brief descriptions of each of the habitats in NHTown using information from [the Habitat Stewardship Brochure web pages](http://extension.unh.edu/FWT/HabBrochures.htm). Feel free to use the same format as the Bath or Hebron NRI’s if you would like.
	+ Be sure to add NHTown-specific information for each of the habitats (e.g. say where the larger peatlands in town are; what percentage of town is peatlands; which are currently protected or under threat, etc.).
	+ Edit the [Critical Habitats & Associated Species list](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/index.cfm?e=app.resource&resourceID=2198&updated=true) (Word Document) to include just those habitats in NHTown. You may want to include the list of potential species with each habitat description. You can also use this as a checklist of species found in town (e.g. through the stick dots activity described under outreach)
 | Conservation Commission – allocate tasks once we have discussed how we will approach this.  | Fall 2014– Spring 2015  |