

## **REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

Upton's Open Space Committee, a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission, is dedicated to protecting our town's quality of life by preserving its open spaces, its natural resources, its historic treasures and its small town character. In 2010 the Committee:

1. Substantially completed the Town's 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The plan describes the town's natural resources, provides an inventory of open space and recreational facilities, sets goals, and provides an action plan for the next 7 years. The plan is posted on the town's website. Final approval of the plan by the Division of Conservation Services is expected in early 2011.
2. Developed a plan to preserve Sweetwilliam Farm, a 92 acre property on North Street. The preservation plan includes purchase of 60 acres by the town and preservation of 27 acres with Conservation Restriction. The plan would be funded by a \$500,000 LAND Grant from the Commonwealth, Community Preservation Act (CPA) Funds, other grants and private donations. Partners included the Sudbury Valley Trustees and Metacomet Land Trust. The LAND Grant was awarded to Upton in October and the CPA committee authorized use CPA funds for the project. A special town meeting to decide whether or not to accept the grant and expend CPA funds to preserve the farm is scheduled to occur in January of 2011. The special town meeting required a citizen's petition because selectmen declined to accept the CPA committee recommendation to bring the preservation plan to town meeting.
3. Sponsored or co-sponsored walks and events to encourage the public use, enjoyment, and appreciation of Upton's special places. These included an edible plant walk and Native American fireside talk at the Former Stefan's Farm, a program on moths at Upton State Forest, walks at the Warren Brook Watershed Conservation Area and Upton State Forest, and the annual "Big Night" frog/salamander migration watch at the Fowler Street Vernal Pool.
4. Submitted open space news articles for publication in the Upton Town Crier.
5. Maintained the Open Space Page on the Town's website.

The Open Space subcommittee welcomes new members. It meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of every month in the Gathering Room at Nipmuc High School. More information about our work is available on the Town's website.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Dodd  
Scott Heim  
Rick Holmes (CPA committee representative)  
Mike Penko (Chair)  
Marcella Stasa (Secretary)  
William Taylor