

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

This year the Selectmen asked the Conservation Commission to try to determine what the citizens of Shelburne felt about future development and use of the Androscoggin River. This request was triggered by a proposal to construct a parking area and boat launching site below the dam.

The proposal seems to be dead for now, but it brings up the reality that as the pollution level of the river goes down, the pressure to develop the shore land and the river itself will soar.

The Androscoggin River in Shelburne is already being used by several guides bringing paying clients here for trophy fishing. There are organizations actively pursuing the development of a canoe trail through the area.

Obviously, the pressure is already building and we need to decide how the town will be affected. Nothing much is solid at this point as we are just entering the discussion with the State and North Country Council on how to proceed from here.

Also the matter of streambed improvement on Connor Brook is ongoing. A walking tour in November with Jay Mailhot, the Ranger in charge of the project, showed the progress so far. There is another season of work scheduled. Actually, since the start of the project, there has been no good run-off to see how the debris positioned in and along the stream will set up. With heavy snow-pack this winter, the spring melt should have very interesting results

A study group is looking into the possibility of establishing a large, working forest in Shelburne and protecting it from future development Conservation Commission – John Gralenski, David Carlisle, Tom Moore, Mary Jo Landry, John Cosgriff & Stanley Judge