



Policy for Evaluating Proposed Uses of Conservation Land

Conservation Commission

Mason, N.H.

Adopted June 12, 2019

When presented with a proposed use of conservation land, Mason CC will evaluate its impact on conservation values. These values include:

- Wildlife habitat,
- Water resources protection,
- Wetlands protection,
- Rare, threatened or endangered species,
- Soil health (especially erosion prevention),
- Forest health,
- Open space recreation, and
- Peaceful enjoyment of the land by the public.

When impacts on these values have been determined by Mason CC in consultation with either a responsible agency or a professional consultant engaged by the proponent, the proponent will be asked to mitigate any impacts that are found to occur or that can be reasonably expected to occur. If the land's conservation values will be impacted and mitigation is not feasible, the proposed use will be rejected.

For a one-day or one-weekend event, mitigation will include restoring the site to "leave no trace" in a timely manner. Non-impact events such as guided hikes are encouraged and preferred.

For alteration of conservation land from forest or open space to farmland, the proponent must commit to enhancement of wildlife habitat, best management practices for manure and agricultural chemical management, and continuing public access to trails. A lease of no more than four years duration between Mason CC and the proponent will be signed, addressing these and any other considerations that the Mason CC considers relevant. Town Counsel will be consulted as necessary, as permitted by the Select Board.

This policy may be amended and updated as needed.