

## **An Action Plan for Wonalancet**

*The "Permanent Protection Planning Task Force" respectfully submits the following recommendations to the Wonalancet Preservation Association's membership, for discussion and approval at the 11 August 2013 Annual Meeting.*

### Preamble:

At the 2012 Annual Meeting the WPA President was charged with appointing a committee to report back to the 2013 Annual Meeting with a plan for more permanent protection of properties in Wonalancet. After exploring many aspects of this topic, we concluded that land preservation, while of great importance, is but one aspect of a larger commitment we all share relating to the future of the Wonalancet community. Accordingly, we have enlarged the scope of our recommendations to suggest a broader vision and some concrete steps for how the community might work to protect and enhance the biological, cultural, historical, and spiritual aspects of Wonalancet. This is not an ultimate plan, but important steps on the journey toward the future we seek for Wonalancet.

### A. Survey the plants, animals and habitat of the Wonalancet area.

Information from this survey would be helpful in identifying areas in need of preservation. The exact type of survey most appropriate for our purposes can only be determined by consultation with experts in this field. (One such expert well known to many WPA members is Dr. Rick Van de Poll, of Ecosystem Management Consultants, based in Sandwich, who has vast experience in this part of New Hampshire.)

### B. Create a working map of Wonalancet utilizing Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.

As a first approximation, the Task Force defines Wonalancet as an area centered on the Wonalancet Union Chapel, with a radius of about 2 miles. A GIS map is an invaluable tool not only to understand geographic relationships within the community but also to help envision future community projects including land protection initiatives.

### C. Create a standing Land Protection Committee.

This committee will develop a prioritized list of properties at risk, considering factors such as: location; present level of protection; proximity to already-conserved properties; flora, fauna and their habitat; water and other mineral resources; scenic, cultural, historical, and recreational assets; and development

potential. The committee will work with landowners toward preservation of the highest priority properties, flexibly utilizing the most appropriate means in each individual case.

D. Determine the pros and cons of applying for National Historic District designation.

Both the Squam Lake and Chocorua Lake areas have been so designated. While this designation does not provide any enforceable land protection, it would provide an important statement by the community on the historic and cultural significance of Wonalancet. Designation would also be a vehicle to provide this important information to future landowners in Wonalancet.

E. Redesign the Wonalancet Preservation Association website.

A website is an important communication tool both within the local community and out into the larger global community. The WPA website (wonalancet.org) will be designed to reflect current and future community projects. A website is an excellent resource to provide access to maps, habitat data, historical information, land protection options, and the status of ongoing projects.

F. Carry out a fund-raising campaign.

The projects being recommended all have costs associated with them. The current resources of the WPA are not adequate to carry out this work on a long-term basis. The fund-raising goal will be based on an estimated budget, prepared by the Board of Directors in consultation with the Task Force, for work needed at the outset plus foreseeable ongoing costs.

25 July 2013