

News from Bear-Paw Regional Greenways
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BEAR-PAW REGIONAL GREENWAYS' ANNUAL MEETING – RECORD TURNOUT

DEERFIELD N.H., February 15, 2007 – Bear-Paw Regional Greenways held their 12th year Annual Meeting with over 100 friends on February 10th, 2007. Bear-Paw celebrated the addition of five conservation easements and almost 220 acres to their list of lands protected! Bear-Paw now holds 16 easements protecting 1,135 acres and has assisted on other projects protecting another 1,233 acres. The meeting was held at Coe-Brown Academy on Route 4 in Northwood.

During a brief business meeting, the Board and Staff of Bear-Paw discussed the accomplishments of the prior year and plans for the next. They presented awards to all of the landowners who completed conservation easement projects in 2006 (Harmony Anderson of Strafford, April Bacon of Nottingham, Sylvia Clifford of Deerfield, Irene Cruikshank of Deerfield, and Elizabeth Rooney of Strafford). They also recognized the contributions to regional conservation efforts of Carolyn Page and Al Pratt of Strafford as well as the Towns of Deerfield, Nottingham, and Strafford.

After the business meeting, Tom Wessels then discussed his latest book, "The Myth of Progress." His presentation offered a critical examination of the reigning notions of progress through the lens of complex systems science. Tom demonstrated how the current path toward progress, based on continual economic expansion and inefficient use of resources, ran absolutely contrary to three foundational scientific laws that govern all complex natural systems. He concluded with an impassioned argument for cultural change. Tom is a professor of Ecology and founding director of the Masters Degree Program in Conservation Biology in the Department of Environmental Studies at Antioch University New England in Keene, New Hampshire. After the presentation and lunch, members of the Bear-Paw Board and Tom Wessels led over 50 people on a hike in Strafford.

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways is a non-profit land trust led by resident volunteers who are concerned about the loss of natural areas throughout the organization's seven town service area of Candia, Deerfield, Epsom, Northwood, Nottingham, Raymond, and Strafford. Bear-Paw exists to safeguard important wildlife habitat and travel routes, water resources, working farms and forests, scenic vistas, and recreational opportunities. The organization is committed to ensuring that the region's most important natural features continue to be available for future generations and is working to promote voluntary land protection through outreach, technical assistance, and education. For further information about how to become a member, land protection options for landowners or volunteering with the land trust, please contact Daniel Kern at Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, Post Office Box 19, Deerfield, NH 03037, 603 463-9400, or info@bear-paw.org. You can also visit their website at www.bear-paw.org.

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