

MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR FARNUM HILL RESERVE

INTRODUCTION:

Farnum Hill Reserve is an 880 acre parcel with a prominent ridgeline that occupies a large portion of land bounded by Poverty Lane, Slayton Hill Road, and on the north by Old Kings Highway (a Class VI road).

Dr. W. Myric Wood, Jr. and his family conveyed 820 acres of their land for a natural reserve to the City of Lebanon in 1982. The transfer involved the State of New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), private donations, and a significant contribution by the Wood family. In 1995, approximately 60 acres were added on the east side from land owned by James D. Banker. This addition was purchased utilizing the City of Lebanon Open Space Trust Fund.

With few exceptions, most of the reserve is forested with typical upland forest stands of mixed hardwoods and hemlock. There are pure stands of white pine, red pine (plantation stands), red oak, and hemlock. The hemlock stands provide deer with winter yarding areas. A large open field exists along Slayton Hill Road on the former Banker land.

Wildlife species are diverse and abundant. These include white-tailed deer, black bear, bobcat, rabbit, fisher, red fox, racoon, ruffed grouse, woodcock, several species of woodpeckers, hawks, barred owls, and many songbird species.

Approximately 9 miles of trails have been constructed on the reserve. These consist of a trail along the ridge over the three peaks, three side loops, and connectors to Marie's Way and Foliage View. Trailhead parking is available at the 4 trail termination points. Two airport beaconways and a major electric transmission line exist on the reserve.

PURPOSES OF THIS RESERVE:

Purposes must be consistent with the Conservation Easement Deed covenants in perpetuity between the City of Lebanon and the SPNHF dated March 27, 1997 and accepted by the Upper Valley Land Trust on April 9, 1997. (copy attached)

Pursuant to NH RSA 477:45 – 47 exclusively for the following conservation purposes:

Preservation of the land for outdoor recreation and/or education by the general public through the auspices of the City of Lebanon.

Protection of the natural habitat and wintering area of the white-tailed deer as identified by the NH Fish & Game Department.

Preservation and conservation of open forestlands and wildlife habitat.

Preservation of land for scenic enjoyment by the general public

Be consistent with the open space conservation goals and/or objectives as stated in the 1993 City of Lebanon Master Plan relative to rural character, protecting habitat, and preserving ridgelines.

Be consistent with the Land and Water Conservation Fund Project Agreement (1982) as stated in some of the above purposes. (copy attached)

MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVE:

Permitted uses - Hiking
Cross country skiing
Horseback riding
Hunting

Easement use limitations from the Conservation Easement between the City of Lebanon and the SPNHF section 2B which states " Cutting of growth shall be limited to that which is necessary for the construction of new trails, for the maintenance of existing trails, roads, and other improvement, including the water main and storage tank and access thereto, airport beacons, and parking areas, and for salvage in cases of natural disaster, such as fire, windstorm, or disease. Such cutting shall not materially impair the scenic quality of the Property as viewed from public roads or public trails."

The large open field on the former Banker property near Slayton Hill Road should be mowed annually by volunteers or the Lebanon Public Works Department.

An extensive system of stone walls throughout the reserve should be preserved and maintained.

Maintenance of property bound monumentation should occur at 2 – 3 year intervals. Blazing of monumentation should be initiated using standard methodology. Some property lines near house lots should be blazed.

The existing trail network should receive constant maintenance utilizing standard procedure for cross country ski trails as originally constructed. The existing trail from the Ridge Trail running southeast to the 20 foot ROW at the south end of Poverty Lane should be improved if a connector to the Morgan Hill Conservation Area in Plainfield is established from Poverty Lane.

CHANGES TO THE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

It is understood that this management plan is a dynamic document and that changes should be made addressing permitted uses and their impact on the conservation values of the reserve. At times, more specificity relative to potential conservation impacts might be necessary for inclusion.

Ron Bailey
February 18, 2004

Adopted by the Lebanon Conservation Commission March 11, 2004