

First Report of the Meredith Conservation Commission

1966 Meredith Annual Town Report

Well-planned use of our ‘open spaces’ (land not now being used for industrial or residential development) is the aim of your Meredith Conservation Commission. Well planned open spaces will increase the value of surrounding real estate and yield benefits in water conservation, recreation, timber, wildlife and scenic enhancement.

As a commission we have made a start in guiding the future use and development of Meredith’s countryside. The Meredith commission has been selected as one of the two pilot commissions in the state. The actions that our commission takes will serve as a guide for other communities.

One of the first things that we are doing is to make an inventory of all town-owned lands. We are locating these properties on aerial photographs and town maps supplied by the U.S. Conservation Service. These properties will all be examined on the ground, and their future use and potential reviewed. One such property has already been inspected; namely, the “Poor Farm” property. This is located in the southwesterly part of town, and borders on Robinson Pond. One member of the commission, a retired forester, has made a detailed appraisal of the property, which will guide us in determining its future use.

In addition to town-owned land, we eventually will be making an inventory and study of all open space, including wet lands. Our job has been made somewhat easier because of the soil survey report recently prepared for the town by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. The soil survey will be a valuable aid in carrying out our study.

In the past we have taken our countryside too much for granted. Today many of us are viewing with anxiety the future of this landscape and certain of its functions — open space, greenery, pure air and fresh water, refreshing scenery, and pleasant views. The preservation of this countryside, the wise use of our “open space”, is of vital concern to the Conservation Commission, as we hope that it will be to all citizens of Meredith.

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