Conservation Easement Monitoring Protocol

Contact Stewardship Manager, Anne Payeur at 603-526-6555 with any questions.

Volunteer Monitor Responsibilities

- Assist Ausbon Sargent with maintaining a continuous relationship with the conservation easement landowner(s).
- Conduct annual inspection with documentation of the condition, changes in the land, and activities since last monitoring visit, as well as plans for the future of easement property.
- Complete annual inspections by Thanksgiving and submit monitor packet with completed Monitor Reports to Stewardship Manager Anne Payeur by December 15th.
- New 2022 Requirement by the Land Trust Alliance: "Date report was completed" has to be filled out on the monitor report. The report must be made at or promptly after the time of the visit (within 2 months).
- Staff will manage the following, volunteer monitors are <u>NOT</u> responsible for: interpreting the easement, approving or denying proposals from the landowner, informing landowner of compliance issues, enforcing the easement, or establishing or marking new easement boundaries.

Prior to the Visit Pick up your monitoring packet and materials from the Ausbon Sargent office anytime between 8 am and 4 pm weekdays. o The packet includes a survey, copies of prior reports and a monitor report. Ausbon Sargent will provide you with paint and surveyor's flagging for the purpose of boundary maintenance, if needed. o If you would like a GPS shape of the property boundary to use with a navigation smartphone app like Gaia, to help you navigate the property while monitoring, contact Anne at apayeur@ausbonsargent.org. ☐ Review the Conservation Easement and monitoring packet. Plan your monitoring route and priority areas ahead of time. Plan to walk the entire boundary first, then interior areas affected by landowner uses, use limitations, and easement purposes. ☐ Contact the landowner, review all of the information requested in Section 2 of the Monitor Report and invite them to join you on the site visit. Collect the items you will need for monitoring: Monitoring packet, camera, compass, surveyor's flagging, paint, clippers, etc. **During the Visit** ☐ Walk the property boundary. Walk the entire perimeter if possible, cumbersome as this may seem, boundaries are especially vulnerable to trespasser abuses or encroachment. Note any trespass, encroachment or other changes in the report. ☐ Inspect the property interior. Focus on areas affected by easement purposes, use limitations, reserved rights, and public use (trails, picnicking and scenic view spots and any



areas accessible by motorized vehicles).

suc	ch as damage from insect infestation, erosion from storms, or other natural occurrences. or oughly document any new manmade improvements, or changes, in property condition or
	e such as a timber harvest, view clearing, new construction, new roads, or other manmade anges, even if permitted by the easement.
	O Photographs are a critical part of the documentation. Photograph any new manmade improvements. Photograph any changes but also take photos indicating no changes to the property. Try to capture the purpose of the easement on film − i.e. if the purpose of the easement is to protect a scenic view then photograph the view or if the easement requires that a field be mowed, then photograph the mowed field. Photograph boundaries if there are major changes in abutting property use. Keep a written log of photograph locations by noting photo location on the map copy.
alo tha line is a fla	Sundary Maintenance . While walking the boundaries, if blazes are already established ong the boundary, you may add paint where paint has faded, especially on the bark area at may be healing over the blaze wound. However, you may not establish new boundary es; or disturb or reposition boundary monuments like stone bounds and iron pipes. If there any doubt in your mind about the correct location of the boundary, please do not repaint or g. Report any changes in the boundary condition or any need for refreshment in your pointor Report.
A	SLPT sign . Trim brush around our sign. If crooked, please straighten and level.
er	the Visit: Documentation, Leaving a Paper Tail
	ithin 1 month of your visit, be sure to complete the Monitor Report. If you would like to wnload our form to your computer, please contact Ausbon Sargent by phone or email.
	rite a brief narrative of your visit to the property with your observations. If you have any neerns about the easement property, please include them in the narrative.
0	Example narrative of Sargent Easement (Pleasant Lake Farm). "This 20-acre easement can be seen in its entirety from the road. To begin the site visit, we drove around Pleasant Street to Lake Shore Road. We parked along the road and found the far eastern boundary (I.P.) along Lake Shore. From here we walked We found no identifiable changes on the land. We located all boundaries. Boundaries were flagged and/or re-painted. The Cloughs raise corn & strawberries and have a portable farm stand."
Ph	otographs - Don't forget your photo log!
	We would like a disk or thumb drive with the digital images, or if you only took a few pictures you may email copies to Anne at apayeur@ausbonsargent.org .
	Make a photo log. It is easiest for us if you make a separate photo key that identifies where the photo is taken and what it shows, using the photo number. Also, a photo location map is helpful.
Ple	ease return all completed documentation to Ausbon Sargent by the end of December.
0	Remember, if you are monitoring a conservation easement that has been subdivided so it has multiple landowners, one report needs to be written for each landowner.
	Bo alo that line is a fla do Wincom Phermal Plea

THANK YOU!



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Book: 3 / Pages:1778 - 1792

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Book 3030 Page 1778

This is a non-contractual conveyance and a conveyance to a municipality, and is exempt from the New Hampshire real estate transfer tax pursuant to New Hampshire RSA 78-B:2 I, IX.

/ Please Return to:

ASLPT, PO Box 2040, New London, NH 03257





CONSERVATION EASEMENT DEED

The AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST, a New Hampshire Voluntary Corporation organized under the provisions of NH RSA Chapter 292 with its principal office at 11 Pleasant Street, Town of New London, County of Merrimack, State of New Hampshire (mailing address: PO Box 2040, New London, NH 03257) (hereinafter referred to as the "Grantor", which word where the context requires includes the plural and shall, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, include the Grantor's executors, administrators, legal representatives, devisees, heirs, successors and assigns),

for consideration paid, with WARRANTY covenants, grants IN PERPETUITY to

THE TOWN OF NEW LONDON, a municipal corporation, situated in the County of Merrimack, State of New Hampshire, ACTING THROUGH ITS CONSERVATION COMMISSION pursuant to NH RSA 36-A:4, with its principal office at the New London Town Offices, 375 Main Street, Town of New London, County of Merrimack, State of New Hampshire (mailing address: PO Box 240, New London, NH 03527) (hereinafter referred to as the "Grantee" which shall, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, include the Grantee's successors and assigns),

the Conservation Easement (herein referred to as the "Easement") hereinafter described with respect to that certain parcel/area of land (herein referred to as the "Property") being unimproved land, consisting of approximately 13.15 acres, situated on the westerly side of Soo Nipi Park Road, in the Town of New London, County of Merrimack, State of New Hampshire and being shown as Lot 1 on plan of land entitled "Proposed Subdivision, Estate of Mary F. Charles, Soo Nipi Park Road, New London, N.H.", dated October 1989, last revised May 1990, prepared by Twin State Surveys, approved by the Town of New London Planning Board July 10, 1990 and recorded with the Merrimack County Registry of Deeds on September 13, 1990 as Plan # 11800, (hereinafter known as the "Plan"), and as more particularly bounded and described in Appendix "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The Property, known locally as the Cordingley Preserve, is located on Soo Nipi Park Road, and has frontage on King Hill Brook, which is the second largest tributary flowing into Lake Sunapee, and therefore is important to maintaining the water quality of the lake. The Molly Charles Trail, a one mile walking trail, is located on the Property and open to the public. The trail showcases the 30-40 inch diameter white pine trees, the King Hill Brook, and large glacial erratics. An interpretive trail brochure is available for Property visitors. The Property will remain open to the public for pedestrian recreational purposes.

1. PURPOSES

The Easement hereby granted is pursuant to NH RSA 477:45-47, exclusively for the following conservation purposes (herein referred to as "Purposes"), which Purposes are consistent with and in accordance with the US Internal Revenue Code, Section 170(h):

- A. To assure that the Property will be retained forever in its predominantly undeveloped, forested, and open space condition;
- B. To conserve forests and riparian corridors for the benefit of native plants and wildlife;
- C. To conserve the Property's productive forest land and important forest soils, and to ensure the long-term protection of the Property's capacity to produce economically valuable forest products;
- D. To provide for low-impact, non-commercial outdoor recreational use by the general public on the Property;
- E. To protect the quality of ground and surface water resources on the Property, and to protect approximately 500 feet of undeveloped water frontage along King Hill Brook, upon which the Property fronts; and
- F. To provide for the scenic enjoyment of the general public along the 950 feet of undeveloped road frontage on Soo Nipi Park Road.

The above Purposes are consistent with the Town of New London's clearly delineated conservation policy set forth in Chapter VI of its Master Plan dated 1998 which states, among other things:

"Goals for Conservation and Open Space Lands include the following:

- 1. to protect New London's open space lands;
- 2. to preserve the quality and quantity of New London's water resources;
- 3. to preserve the scenic areas and the natural beauty of New London;
- 4. to preserve agricultural and forest lands and encourage their sound management;
- 5. to provide and preserve natural habitat for wildlife;
- 6. to protect fragile environments such as hilltops, steep slopes, wetlands and special natural or geologic features; and
- 7. to develop the Town's trail system as an outdoor recreational resource."

and with New Hampshire RSA Chapter 79-A which states: "It is hereby declared to be in the public interest to encourage the preservation of open space, thus providing a healthful and attractive outdoor environment for work and recreation of the state's citizens, maintaining the character of the state's landscape, and conserving the land, water, forest, agricultural and wildlife resources."

and with New Hampshire RSA 481:1 which states: "The general court declares and determines that the water of New Hampshire ... constitutes a limited and, therefore, precious and invaluable public resource which should be protected, conserved and managed in the interest of present and future generations."

The Easement hereby granted with respect to the Property is as follows:

- 2. <u>USE LIMITATIONS</u> (Subject to the reserved rights specified in Section 3 below)
 - A. The Property shall be maintained in perpetuity as open space without there being conducted thereon any industrial or commercial activities, except forestry, including timber harvesting as described below and provided that the productive capacity of the Property to produce forest crops shall not be degraded by on-site activities and that such activities will not cause significant pollution or surface or subsurface waters or soil erosion.
 - i. For the purposes hereof, "forestry" shall include the growing, stocking, cutting, and sale of forest trees of any size capable of producing timber or other forest products; the construction of roads or other accessways for the purpose of removing forest products from the Property; and the processing and sale of products produced on the Property all as not detrimental to the Purposes of this Easement.
 - ii. Forestry for industrial or commercial purposes shall be performed, to the extent reasonably practicable, as hereinafter specified in accordance with the following goals, and in a manner not detrimental to the Purposes of this Easement as described in Section 1 above.
 - a. The goals are:
 - protection of water quality, wetlands, and riparian zones;
 - maintenance of soil productivity;
 - development and maintenance of a forest of large diameter trees 24" and above;
 - maintenance or improvement of the overall quality of forest products;
 - conservation of native plant and animal species and wildlife habitat;
 - conservation of scenic quality;
 - protection of unique or fragile natural areas; and
 - protection of unique historic and cultural features.
 - b. Such forestry shall be performed in accordance with a written forest management

plan consistent with this Easement, prepared by a licensed professional forester, or by another qualified person approved in advance and in writing by the Grantee. Said plan shall have been prepared not more than ten years prior to the date any harvesting is expected to commence, or shall have been reviewed and updated as required by such a forester or other qualified person at least thirty (30) days prior to said date.

- c. At least thirty (30) days prior to harvesting, Grantor shall submit to Grantee a written certification, signed by a licensed professional forester, or by another qualified person approved in advance and in writing by the Grantee, that such plan has been prepared in compliance with the terms of this Easement. Grantee may request the Grantor to submit the plan itself to Grantee within ten (10) days of such request, but acknowledges that the plan's purpose is to guide forest management activities in compliance with this Easement, and that the actual activities will determine compliance therewith.
- d. The plan shall include a statement of landowner objectives, and shall specifically address:
 - the long-term protection of those values for which this Easement is granted, as described in Section 1 above;
 - the accomplishment of the goals in Section 2.A.ii.a. above;
 - a map showing the boundaries, access roads, wetlands, streams, and forestry management units;
 - a soils map, description of soils on the Property, and their suitability for the uses proposed;
 - a description of and forest management prescriptions for each management unit, and
 - forest inventory data, if collected.
- e. Timber harvesting with respect to such forestry shall be conducted in accordance with said plan and be supervised by a licensed professional forester, or by another qualified person approved in advance and in writing by the Grantee.
- f. Such forestry shall be carried out in accordance with all applicable local, state, federal, and other governmental laws and regulations, and, to the extent reasonably practicable, in accordance with then current, generally accepted best management practices for the sites, soils, and terrain of the Property. For references, see "Best Management Practices for Forestry: Protecting New Hampshire's Water Quality" (Sarah Smith, 2005), and "Good Forestry in the Granite State: Recommended Voluntary Forest Management Practices for New Hampshire" (New Hampshire Forest Sustainability Standards Work Team, 1997), or similar successor standards or other publications as may be mutually agreed to by the Grantor and the Grantee.
- g. Such forestry shall be carried out, to the extent reasonably practicable, in accordance with the recommendations contained in "A Guide to Logging

Aesthetics: Practical Tips for Loggers, Foresters, and Landowners" (Geoffrey Jones, 1993) or similar successor publications.

- B. The Property shall not be subdivided.
- C. No structure or improvement, including, but not limited to, a dwelling, any portion of a septic system, tennis court, swimming pool, dock, aircraft landing strip, utility tower or wireless communication facility, or mobile home, shall be constructed, placed, or introduced onto the Property. However, ancillary structures and improvements including, but not limited to, a road, dam, fence, bridge, culvert, or shed may be constructed, placed, or introduced onto the Property only as necessary in the accomplishment of the forestry, conservation, habitat management, or noncommercial outdoor recreational uses of the Property and provided that they are not detrimental to the Purposes of this Easement.
- D. No removal, filling, or other disturbances of soil surface, nor any changes in topography, surface or subsurface water systems, wetlands, or natural habitat shall be allowed unless such activities:
 - i. are commonly necessary in the accomplishment of the forestry, conservation, habitat management, or noncommercial outdoor recreational uses of the Property; and
 - ii. do not harm state or federally recognized rare, threatened, or endangered species, such determination of harm to be based upon information from the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory or the agency then recognized by the State of New Hampshire as having responsibility for identification and/or conservation of such species; and
 - iii. are not detrimental to the Purposes of this Easement.

Prior to commencement of any such activities, all necessary federal, state, local, and other governmental permits and approvals shall be secured.

- E. No outdoor advertising structures such as signs and billboards shall be displayed on the Property except as desirable or necessary in the accomplishment of the forestry, conservation, or noncommercial outdoor recreational uses of the Property, and provided such signs are not detrimental to the Purposes of this Easement. Permitted signs shall be in compliance with New London zoning regulations. Even if permitted by zoning, no individual sign shall exceed 4 square feet, and the total square footage of signs on the Property shall not exceed 16 square feet. No sign shall be artificially illuminated.
- F. There shall be no mining, quarrying, excavation, or removal of rocks, minerals, gravel, sand, topsoil, or other similar materials on the Property, except in connection with any improvements made pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2.A., C., D., or E., above and provided that such activities on the Property are not detrimental to the Purposes of this Easement. No such rocks, minerals, gravel, sand, topsoil, or other similar materials shall be removed from the Property.

Fee Owned Monitoring Protocol

Contact Stewardship Manager, Anne Payeur at 603-526-6555 with any questions.

Volunteer Land Steward Responsibilities

- General inspections of the fee owned property three time a year (spring, summer, and fall), with an annual report. Additional visits are encouraged. The fall visit being the most rigorous inspection with annual report.
- New 2022 Requirement by the Land Trust Alliance: "Date report was completed" has to be filled out on the monitor report. The report must be made at or promptly after the time of the visit (within 2 months).
- Assisting staff in stewardship projects on the property.

Prior to the Visit		
	Review ASLPT Management Plan, deeds, survey, and maps.	
	If applicable, review conservation easement.	
	Collect the items you will need for monitoring: Monitoring packet, camera, compass, surveyor's flagging, clippers, etc.	
Du	ring the Visit	
Document current conditions. Make special note of changes from previous monitor report such as damage from insect infestation, erosion from storms, or other natural occurrences. Thoroughly document any new manmade improvements, or changes, in property condition use such as a timber harvest, view clearing, new construction, new roads, or other manmade changes, even if permitted by the easement.		
	• Photographs are a critical part of the documentation. Photograph any new manmade improvements. Photograph any changes but also take photos indicating no changes to the property. Try to capture the purpose of the easement on film – i.e. if the purpose of the easement is to protect a scenic view then photograph the view or if the easement requires that a field be mowed, then photograph the mowed field. Photograph boundaries if there are major changes in abutting property use. Keep a written log of photograph locations by noting photo location on the map copy.	
	Annually in the fall or more frequently, if possible, walk the entire boundary of the property. Document any trespass, encroachment, or other changes. Feel free to prune brush around boundary monuments. Report any changes in the boundary condition in your report. Note if boundary paint is fading or if more ASLPT tin square boundary markers are needed.	



location of the boundary, please do not repaint or flag.

o If blazes are already established along the boundary, add paint where paint has faded, especially on the bark area that may be healing over the blaze wound. However, you may not establish new boundary lines; or disturb or reposition boundary monuments like stone bounds and iron pipes. If there is any doubt in your mind about the correct

u	Seasonally, inspect the property interior. Focus on areas of public use (trails, picnicking and scenic view spots and any areas accessible by motorized vehicles). Document changes such as damage from insect infestation, fire, flood, high winds, or other natural occurrences, timber harvests, view clearings, or new construction.
	Seasonally, inspect access areas to the property and check there is no vehicular use.
	Seasonally, check the condition of structures and signs. Trim brush around our sign. If crooked, please straighten and level.
	Seasonally, inspect the trail for erosion issues, conditions of trail blazes, or any hazards (dead trees overhanging trails or trees down across trails).
	Seasonally, inspect trails and road frontage and remove litter.
	Seasonally, document changes to vegetation or observation of invasive and/or nonnative plants.
	Annually or more frequently, inspect and document sensitive ecological areas like wetlands, vernal pools, or streams/rivers.
Af	ter the Visit: Documentation, Leaving a Paper Tail
	☐ Within 1 month of your visit, be sure to complete the Monitor Report. If you would like to download our form to your computer, please contact Ausbon Sargent by phone or email.
	☐ Write a brief narrative of your visit to the property with your observations. If you have any concerns about the easement property, please include them in the narrative.
	Example narrative of Sargent Easement (Pleasant Lake Farm). "This 20-acre easement can be seen in its entirety from the road. To begin the site visit, we drove around Pleasant Street to Lake Shore Road. We parked along the road and found the far eastern boundary (I.P.) along Lake Shore. From here we walked We found no identifiable changes on the land. We located all boundaries. Boundaries were flagged and/or re-painted. The Cloughs raise corn & strawberries and have a portable farm stand."
	☐ Photographs – Don't forget your photo log!
	☐ We would like a disk or thumb drive with the digital images, or if you only took a few pictures you may email copies to Anne at apayeur@ausbonsargent.org .
	☐ Make a photo log. It is easiest for us if you make a separate photo key that identifies where the photo is taken and what it shows, using the photo number. Also, a photo location map is helpful.
	When the documentation is completed, please return all information to Ausbon Sargent. We try to wrap all the monitoring by the end of January, so if you can get your reports in by shortly after the New Year, it would be appreciated.

THANK YOU!



FEE OWNED PROPERTY INSPECTION REPORT

Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust PO BOX 2040, New London, NH 03257 Tel # (603)-526-6555

Property Name:	
Inspection completed by	Date of inspection
Section 1. Property Information:	
Landowner: Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust	Conservation Easement Holder:
Location: Acreage:	
Section 2. Property Information and Ob	servations:
Is there public access to the property? Yes No	
Did you see any evidence of trespassing or inappro	opriate uses? Yes No
Describe:	
Did you walk the trails or interior roads?A	AllMostSomeNone
Trails: Describe use and condition:	
	::
Do we need more brochures/trail maps?	
Condition of sensitive ecological areas (wetlands,	streams, etc.):
Has there been any alteration by natural causes (i.e.	e., fire, flood, falling trees)? Note location & nature:
Wildlife observations - Describe:	

Property Name:		
Did you walk the boundaries?AllM	IostSomeNone	
If not all, describe locations:		
Condition of boundary markers:		
Has the use of the surrounding properties changed? Descr		
Has there been any littering/dumping on the property?		
Condition of entrances:		
Any vehicular use?		
Any vandalism noticed?		
Have any trees been cut? Describe:		
Is there an ASLPT sign on the property?		
Condition of signs:		
If applicable, do you have concerns about Ausbon Sargent	-	
Is there any thing about the property or the use of the prop		
Are there any actions that you feel that Ausbon Sargent sh	nould undertake? Describe:	
Please indicate the number of the following attached: <u>Please</u>	use attach a narrative of your visit	
photos maps illustrationsadditio	onal pagesother	
Date Report Completed by Land Steward:		
Signature of Land Steward:	Date:	
Signature of Ausbon Sargent Staff:	Date:	



2022 MONITORING INSPECTION REPORT

THE AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

Property Name

Section 1. Information: Prior to the visit please ask the landowner if the information is correct.

Current Owner: Landowner/Account Current Contact: Primary Contact

Tel#: Primary Contact Phone Number E-mail: Primary Contact Email

Location: Location Street, City Acres: Total Acres

Inspection completed by:	Date of inspection:		
Section 2. Landowner Conversations: Prior to the visit please ask the landowner the following:			
Do you have permission to visit the property? Wo	uld they like to join you on the visit?		
s the property being leased to anyone? If so, who?			
Has the property, or a portion of the property, been transferred or subdivided (<i>including family conveyances</i>) since the last monitoring visit? If yes, explain:			
Are there any plans to sell the property or change the contact	ct in the next year?		
Is there a written Forest Management Plan? Year	Consulting Forester		
Has any timber harvesting taken place on the property in the	e last year? Explain:		
Do you plan any harvesting in the next 2 years?			
Have your agricultural products changed in the last year? _			
Do you get agricultural advice from the Co-op Ext or NRC	S?		
Do you do any wildlife/habitat management on the property	?		
Is there any commercial activity on the property?			
Any new buildings, driveways, road, ponds, etc. since the la	ast visit? Describe:		
Are there any plans to build in the next year? Describe:			
To whom did you speak?	Date of Conversation:		
Monitors Initials:			

Page 2: Property Name

Section 3. Property Visit: Please review the terms of the easement

Did the owner of the land accompany you on the inspection?		
Did you observe that the property is being used for any of the following?		
☐ Agriculture: ☐ Animals raised or grazed ☐ Hay ☐ Pasture ☐ Cropland ☐ Christmas trees		
☐ Other farm use:		
☐ Forestry: ☐ Maple sugaring activities		
☐ Timber harvesting		
☐ Timber access roads or landings constructed?		
☐ Other forestry use:		
□ Recreation: □ Trails – Describe: □ Other:		
☐ Fields: ☐ Mowed ☐ Not Mowed ☐ Not Applicable		
Has the property been altered by natural causes (i.e., fire, flood,)? Note location & nature of changes:		
Did you notice any other changes since last year? Describe:		
Wildlife observed:	_	
Uses of surrounding properties:		
Is there an ASLPT sign on the property? Where is it located?		
Are there ASLPT easement boundary markers?		
Is the property posted against public access in any way?		
Please indicate the number of the following attached: <u>Please attach a narrative of your visit</u>		
photos photo key maps additional pagesother		
Date Report Completed by Monitor:		
Signature of Monitor:		

Ausbon Sargent Monitoring Hours

Only fill in your own hours, not hours spent by other monitors. If you are a husband/wife team, please each fill out your own sheet.

Property Name: {Property Name}					
Monitor Name:					
Monitor Date:					
Annual Inspection	Hours you put in				
Preparation					
Contacting Landowner					
Travel Time					
Site Walk					
Report					
Inspection Total					
Travel Miles	(distance from your house to the property and back)				
Photo Cost (if paid by you)	\$				