

Canton Wind Fieldwork

Friday, October 7, 2011 (Updated typo 10.18.11)

Terry and Amy

Field work focused on the two 'rated' ponds (Forest Pond in Canton and Nelson Pond in Livermore) and the six structures on the National Register.

1. We stopped briefly to re-photographed the view from behind the Town Garage.
2. Drove on Shackley Hill Road, off Route 108, to Nelson Road. We first drove to the northern end of **Nelson Pond**. There is a newly constructed log cabin style house on the northern end with a lawn up to the pond and a dock. Clearly private property with no public access. There are also several woods roads off Nelson Road – but the land on both sides was all posted with signs saying: "Safety Zone, No trespassing, No shooting" so we did not go down any of the woods roads toward the Pond. We did drive up the driveway to the **Nelson Farm, which is a private residence (i.e no public access)**. The house is an amazing partly granite block house. ***There is no view of the project from the house or farm because of topography.***
3. We continued down and around on Shackley Hill Road to the eastern end where there was a newer house and some outbuildings. Several open fields with apple orchards. Views to south. We asked for permission and then drove past the house and barn and down a grass/woods path to access the lower end of **Nelson Pond**. Clearly not easy public access. There were some canoes and an old ice fishing shack (maybe) at the edge of the pond. From the southern end of the Pond you could see the log cabin house on the northern end and the lawn and, dock. ***There does not appear to be any views of the project from the pond due to the vegetation along the shoreline.*** Mixed vegetation about 40 to 50' in height. When at the pond we questioned the rating of 'Significant'. It did not seem to have exceptional scenic qualities. There does not appear to be any obvious public access.
4. We drove up Route 108 to Canton village, headed northeast on Route 140 to Leplante Road to Meadowview Road to northern end of Forest Pond. We photographed the wetland system north of the pond, an old oxbow of the Androscoggin River. There would views of the project from there but it is not a scenic resource. There was an interesting tree house looking building on the edge of the wetland.
5. The access road (harvesting road?) on the east side of **Forest Pond** was blocked with boulders. We parked the car and walked south about a ½ mile on the path close to the end and then bushwhacked to the easterly shore of the Pond. There were no ATV, snowmobile, or trail signs. We followed the shoreline to a point of land on southern part of the Pond. As we approached the point we found a trail. The trail crossed several ledge outcrops . At the end of the trail there was a couple of fire pits surrounded by rocks, a lean-to made of twigs and a couple of beer bottles. We did hear a family talking and hiking on the opposite shoreline but never saw them. The view from this point was quite nice. The Pond is surrounded by a mixture of white pines, red pines and hardwoods averaging 50 to 60' tall. There are several large exposed rock outcrops lining the Pond. ***The view of Canton Mountain is prominent from this location. All 7 turbines would be visible – the closest being about 3.7 miles away. The small portion of transmission***

line may be visible. The access roads should not be visible. Forest Pond definitely seemed more worthy of the 'Significant Scenic' rating however public access was again very challenging. When leaving we tried to follow the trail further but it disappeared so we had to bush whack back to the trail. So while the impact may be strong to people using the pond or visiting this point of land – actual affect on users will be hard to measure. The Canton Comprehensive Plan doesn't reference the pond as a local recreational resource – it gives basic size/depth info and states "this pond is relatively isolated and thus has experienced little development." Basic info searches yield info on fishing resources. (A couple of amusing Youtube fishing clips). IF&W's references a rough dirt road off Meadow View Road. There is no boat launch.

6. The next stop was the **Holmes Crafts Homestead** on the corner of Old Jay Hill and Route 17/Main Street in Jay. The house is the current home of the Jay Historical Society. The Jay Fire Museum is located in an adjacent outbuilding/barn. There is also a newer building called the Florence Raymond Building which seemed to be an accessible meeting space – chairs, tables, and a small office. (We looked in the windows) In reviewing google and bing aerials the Florence Raymond Building was built sometime after 2007 in the general area of an older outbuilding. The museums and F.R. Bdlg are open to public use. We have not reviewed the nomination form yet but the landscape context seems important to these structures. **The project would be screened from view by a stand of 40' +/- white pines on the western side of Route 17/Main St.** There is another older structure located to the north on Old Jay Hill Road, a few newer but nicely detailed barns across the street, and the Jay public garage just south of the homestead. The public garage is a concrete block building.
7. We then visited the **North Jay Grange and the Jay Niles Memorial Library** on at intersection of Routes 4 and 17. **The project will be visible from both locations.** Both structures are open to the public as you know. The turbines will be seen in context of numerous power lines, commercial development, abandoned gas tank, and heavy traffic. The closest turbine would be about **3.6** miles away. Obviously this project will be far more visible than Saddleback. Some of the project will be partially screened from the Library view in the summer due to a couple of deciduous trees.
8. **Bass Boarding House**, known now as the Wilton Farm and Home Museum will not be affected by the project. The project is screened from view by topography and intervening structures.
9. The **Goodspeed Memorial Library** in Wilton will not be affected by the project .The project is screened from view by topography and intervening structures.

We also stopped at the bridge on Route 140 over the Androscoggin and re-photographed the view.