

**Casco Open Space Commission**  
**Annual Report**  
2010-2011

The COSC, in its second year since formation, continued the tasks identified by the Open Space Ordinance. The five-member Commission made progress in each area, studying Casco's opportunities for protection of valued lands and natural features and working on an overall plan for their conservation.

To advance its inventory and analysis of Town-owned lands and present ideas about potential uses, COSC designed a template and began discussing each parcel. A number of smaller properties and the large 70-acre property between Lakewood Road and Route 302 were still to be walked. To assist in planning for the two largest parcels, COSC applied for and received a Project Canopy grant from Maine Department of Conservation which will study the potential conservation and public uses, including forestry, on those parcels, and which will include public participation. Also, COSC met with the Recreation Director and reviewed Town parcels that are under her supervision, those lands already developed and maintained for recreation or parks, and discussed additional recreational needs.

The Greenprint Project, led by Loon Echo Land Trust and Trust for Public Land, resulted in an important planning tool for the region. COSC joined this effort with the six other towns and participated in all its meetings to bring out the values important for maintaining the northern Sebago Lake region's character and supporting its economy. The resulting report and the database tool, which will inform land planning in Casco, can be found at: [http://loonecholandtrust.org/html/lake\\_region\\_greenprint.html](http://loonecholandtrust.org/html/lake_region_greenprint.html)

LELT and TPL discussed with the Commission a project to protect Hacker's Hill, which had been on people's minds since the hilltop view site went on sale. In spring, LELT applied and was awarded funding from the State Land for Maine's Future program. COSC recommended, and Town Meeting voted to add \$75,000 to the effort, using Casco's land protection fund. LELT is continuing fundraising so it can purchase the land, with a closing date of May 2012.