

CURRENT USE CRITERIA BOOKLET

Current Use Advisory Board

History

The Current Use Advisory Board was established in 1973 to establish criteria including minimum acreage requirements, current use categories and value ranges; adopt administrative rules and suggest any changes to statute to the legislature.

Make-Up

The Current Use Advisory Board includes 14 members that have a wide range of backgrounds and interests focusing on forest and farmland use (RSA 79-A:3). The members include representatives from the following state agencies: Department of Agriculture, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and the Department of Revenue Administration. A representative from the University of New Hampshire, College of Life Sciences and a representative from the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions also sit on the Board. There are two members from the legislature, one representative and one senator, and three assessing officials representing cities and towns (all of differing population sizes). There are also three public members, one of whom owns forest and one who owns farmland.

Responsibilities

The Current Use Advisory Board meets regularly to determine the range of values for farmland and forest land for each year, discuss and recommend administrative rule changes, discuss current use issues from the public, and keep abreast of any legal cases and law changes – providing input as needed. The Board holds three public forums in different parts of the state in late fall/winter to provide education about any rule changes and provide an opportunity for assessing officials and landowners to comment on current use changes and rules.

RSA 79-A

RSA 79-A was adopted by the New Hampshire Legislature in 1973. Its stated purpose is to “encourage the preservation of open space, thus providing a healthful and attractive outdoor environment for work and recreation of the State’s citizens...”

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Current Use Board Members

If you have questions about current use, you may contact your local assessing officials, a Current Use Board Member listed below, or the NH Department of Revenue Administration at (603) 230-5096 or by email at cub@dra.nh.gov.

Term information received from the Secretary of State’s Office. This document may be found on the DRA website at: <https://www.revenue.nh.gov/current-use/documents/board-members.pdf>

Board Member	Representing	E-mail	Term
Senator Ruth Ward	Senate	Ruth.Ward@leg.state.nh.us	Coterminous with Senate Term
Representative Josh Yokela	House	Josh.Yokela@leg.state.nh.us	Coterminous with Senate Term
Rick Evans, Commissioner’s Designee	Commissioner of the Department of Revenue Administration	Rick.G.Evans@dra.nh.gov	Coterminous with Appointment
Shawn Jasper, Commissioner	Department of Agriculture, Markets and Food	Shawn.N.Jasper@agr.nh.gov	Coterminous with Appointment
Mark Faulkenberry Commissioner’s Designee	Commissioner of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources	Mark.S.Faulkenberry@dncr.nh.gov	Coterminous with Appointment
Anton Bekkerman, Dean’s Designee	Dean of the College of Life Sciences and Agriculture of UNH	Anton.Bekkerman@unh.edu	Coterminous with Appointment
Barbara Richter, Executive Director	NH Association of Conservation Commissions	Barbara@nhacc.org	Coterminous with Appointment
Mark Beauchesne, Executive Director’s Designee	Executive Director of Department of Fish and Game	Mark.T.Beauchesne@wildlife.nh.gov	Coterminous with Appointment
Jonathan Rice	Assessing Official, City	jonathan.rice@rochesternh.net	2 Years
Normand Bernaiche	Assessing Official, Population >5,000	Norm.Bernaiche@hanovernh.org	2 Years
Thomas Hughes	Assessing Official, Population <5,000	thughes@moultonboroughnh.gov	2 years
Susan Bryant-Kimball	Public – Forest Land	susan.bryant.kimball@gmail.com	2 years
Chuck Souther Chairman	Public – Farm Land	chuck@applehillfarmnh.com	2 years
Thomas Thomson	Public		2 years

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Current Use Assessment Ranges

April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

Farmland	\$25 - \$425 per acre	
Forest Land Categories	Forest Land WITHOUT Documented Stewardship	Forest Land WITH Documented Stewardship
White Pine	\$123 - \$185 per acre	\$74 - \$111 per acre
Hardwood	\$65 – \$98 per acre	\$39 - \$59 per acre
All Other (<i>Including Naturally Seeded Christmas Trees</i>)	\$40 - \$60 per acre	\$24 - \$36 per acre
Unproductive Land	\$24 per acre	\$24 per acre
Wetland	\$24 per acre	\$24 per acre