

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town of Canaan Initiates Drinking Water Protection Project

Canaan, NH – There is no substitute for clean, drinkable water and the Town of Canaan knows it. Canaan also knows that one of the surest ways of continuing to supply safe, quality water is by protecting its drinking water sources.

In March 2006, Canaan’s Board of Selectmen appointed a Source Water Protection Committee to review the status of Canaan’s public drinking water supplies, identify potential sources of contamination, and develop a management plan to protect the quality of Canaan’s drinking water sources. The Committee, with assistance from Granite State Rural Water Association, is focusing on developing a plan to protect the Canaan Street Lake watershed, which is the source of Canaan’s municipal water supply. Water from the lake supplies drinking water to approximately 600 town residents and many local businesses.

David Shinnlinger, the Committee’s Chair and a teacher at Mascoma Valley Regional High School, believes protecting Canaan Street Lake’s watershed is “important because we need to preserve what we have. If something happens to the Lake and it couldn’t be used to supply drinking water anymore, it will be extremely costly for the Town to change water supply sources.”

So far, the Committee has reviewed existing land uses and recreational activities that occur in the watershed or on the lake to determine potential threats to the Lake’s water quality. The next step in the process is to identify possible management options that will help protect Canaan Street Lake but also fit the needs of the community. The challenge in developing the plan will be to balance protection measures with the Lake’s existing recreational uses. Typically lakes that supply drinking water are off limits for recreation to reduce the risk of contamination.

Heidi Brannon, a Source Protection Specialist with Granite State Rural Water Association, said, “Right now, the Committee is generating a lot of great ideas to increase awareness about the importance of protecting Canaan’s Street Lake as well as ways to better protect the Lake.” The Committee will complete the planning process and have a Drinking Water Source Protection Plan written by the end of August.