

I know of 3 possible CE projects brewing in town, and I expect we may get asked to assist at varying levels with each, so I was going to propose that we spend time reviewing our project evaluation criteria and updating if needed. However, searching for the criteria I could only find eval criteria for taking on a CE project ourselves. Since we prefer to have an NGO lead and own the easement, **I was thinking we need a simpler scoring sheet to help us decide what's worth spending money to conserve.**

As a starting place, I'd include questions such as:

1. Is the project in 1 of our 2 highest scoring co-occurrence areas?
2. Is it in 1 of the 2 highest priority zones for the Merrimack Conservation Plan?
3. Is it adjacent to conserved property (either fee or CE or fee)?
4. Is it in 1 of the 2 largest categories of unfragmented land?
5. Is it in 1 of the 2 highest categories of the Wildlife Action Plan?
6. Is it in any area identified in the Master Plan as a priority for conservation?
7. Would the project conserve unique, endangered or threatened habitat or species?
8. Would the project conserve or buffer any water resources or wetlands?
9. Would the project conserve any recreational resources (including trails)?
10. Would the project conserve active or potentially productive agricultural land?
11. Would the project conserve any important historical resources?

And we'd want a scoring system to go with it. This discussion could be a warm-up to further attempts to set our own conservation priority areas within town (so we could do some proactive work), and I think it would help us be fair in evaluating projects that request assistance and/or deciding how heavily to invest in each. I hope we have time on the agenda for a good workshop discussion on some criteria.