



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Tippin Rock Farm, Hewes Hill protected; celebration planned for late April**



**Photo caption:** The protection of Tippin Rock Farm in Swanzezy includes the summit of Hewes Hill and these ledges, which offer wide-sweeping views to the west and southwest. Photo courtesy of Monadnock Conservancy / © Emily Hague

KEENE, N.H. — Tippin Rock Farm in south central Swanzezy, N.H., is now protected by conservation easements thanks to the generosity of the Domina family and a strong collaboration among locals and conservation leaders.

The conservation easements protect 155.3 acres of mixed forest, mostly hemlock-hardwood-white pine stands; various water resources, including Perry Brook; 6.5 acres of prime agriculture soils; diverse wildlife habitat; and Hewes Hill with its bedrock ledges and the “Tippin Rock,” a 40-ton glacial erratic after which the farm is named.

“The Tippin Rock Farm project illustrates why Swanzezy has become a model of community-based land conservation in New Hampshire,” said Monadnock Conservancy executive director Ryan Owens, who managed the project. “Landowners, neighbors, and the town recognized an irreplaceable asset and inspired one another to help protect an emblem of their community’s treasured rural character.”

The farm, at the junction of Swanzezy Lake Road and Warmac Road, is well known in Swanzezy. Bob and Lois Domina grow sweet corn and sell it at their farm stand. Hewes Hill is highly visible from many points in town including Swanzezy Lake.

“When the [Swanzy] Open Space Committee initially walked the Tippin Rock Farm property it was not even a question that this parcel was special. After that walk the excitement on the committee just grew and grew,” said Jeanne Thieme, chair of the Open Space Committee. The Town of Swanzy’s 2004 Open Space Plan included this scenic property in the “Forested Hills” and “Perry and Martin Brooks Wetlands/Streams Complex” conservation priority areas.

Tippin Rock Farm has been protected through two conservation agreements. Bob and Lois Domina voluntarily donated an easement on 62.4 acres, and Bob’s siblings agreed to sell an easement on two adjoining parcels for an additional 92.9 acres. These transactions also enabled and coincided with an intergenerational transfer of the land’s ownership: Chris Domina, the son of Bob and Lois, and his wife, Cheri, now own the property and plan to continue growing corn, harvesting timber and hunting for game.

The conservation agreements also guarantee some types of public access. Pedestrian visitors are welcome to hike to the summit of Hewes Hill to “tip” the “rock” with a shove and enjoy open ledges that offer views to the west and southwest.

“Presently we are working on trail maps and posts to have the maps handy for hikers. We have marked a good part of the trail; the remainder is to be done this spring,” Thieme said. The trail starts on the far side of a field on Warmac Road and is marked with blue paint on trees.

This property has been protected with assistance from the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. Transaction funding for the project was provided by the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership, a public/private effort to protect the Monadnock Highlands of western New Hampshire and north central Massachusetts. To learn more, visit [www.q2cpartnership.org](http://www.q2cpartnership.org).

Additional funding came from the Town of Swanzy, Fields Pond Foundation and private donations, which were tracked using the “corn-o-meter” erected outside the Swanzy Town Hall.

The Open Space Committee will be hosting an event at the Keene State College Camp on Wilson Pond on Wednesday, April 20, to celebrate land protection in Swanzy. This is the fourth year the committee has organized such an event, which has become a much-anticipated affair. “It’s an opportunity to honor the family,” said Swanzy town planner Sara Carbonneau. In addition to the Dominas, the Tolman family will also be recognized; Carroll and Liz’s property, off Westbrook Court around the corner from Tippin Rock Farm, will be protected under conservation easement later this year.

### **About the Monadnock Conservancy**

Founded in 1989, the Monadnock Conservancy is the only land trust dedicated exclusively to the 35 towns of the Monadnock Region in southwestern New Hampshire. Its mission is to identify, promote and actively seek protection of significant natural, aesthetic and historic resources in the area; and to monitor and enforce the protection of lands in the trust. Based in Keene, N.H., the Conservancy has protected 15,000 acres of forest, farmland, shoreline, wetlands, wildlife habitat and recreation trails in the region. For more information, visit [www.MonadnockConservancy.org](http://www.MonadnockConservancy.org).

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