

EXPLORE

DEERING, NH

Self-Guided Tour 2024

Welcome to Deering! These driving tours are designed to encourage residents and visitors to experience our Town. Each tour takes about 45 minutes.

● North Deering Neighborhood

North Deering is located among some of the highest hills in Town. Some of the first settlers built their homes here. The first Town surveyed road built in 1774 began at the Weare line extending to what is now Clement Hill Rd.

● East Deering Neighborhood

East Deering was a thriving center of Town with its own church, post office, and school house. The church was the most active in Town in the 19th century and well into the 20th century as a Methodist Church attracting many neighbors even from Weare.

● West Deering Neighborhood

Hedgehog Mt physically divides West Deering from the rest of Town. This narrow flat strip of fertile land between the mountain and the Contoocook River has been traditionally very prosperous, starting with the 2nd NH turnpike, railroads, hotels, a post office, schools, and successful farms well into the 20th century.

● Central Deering Neighborhood

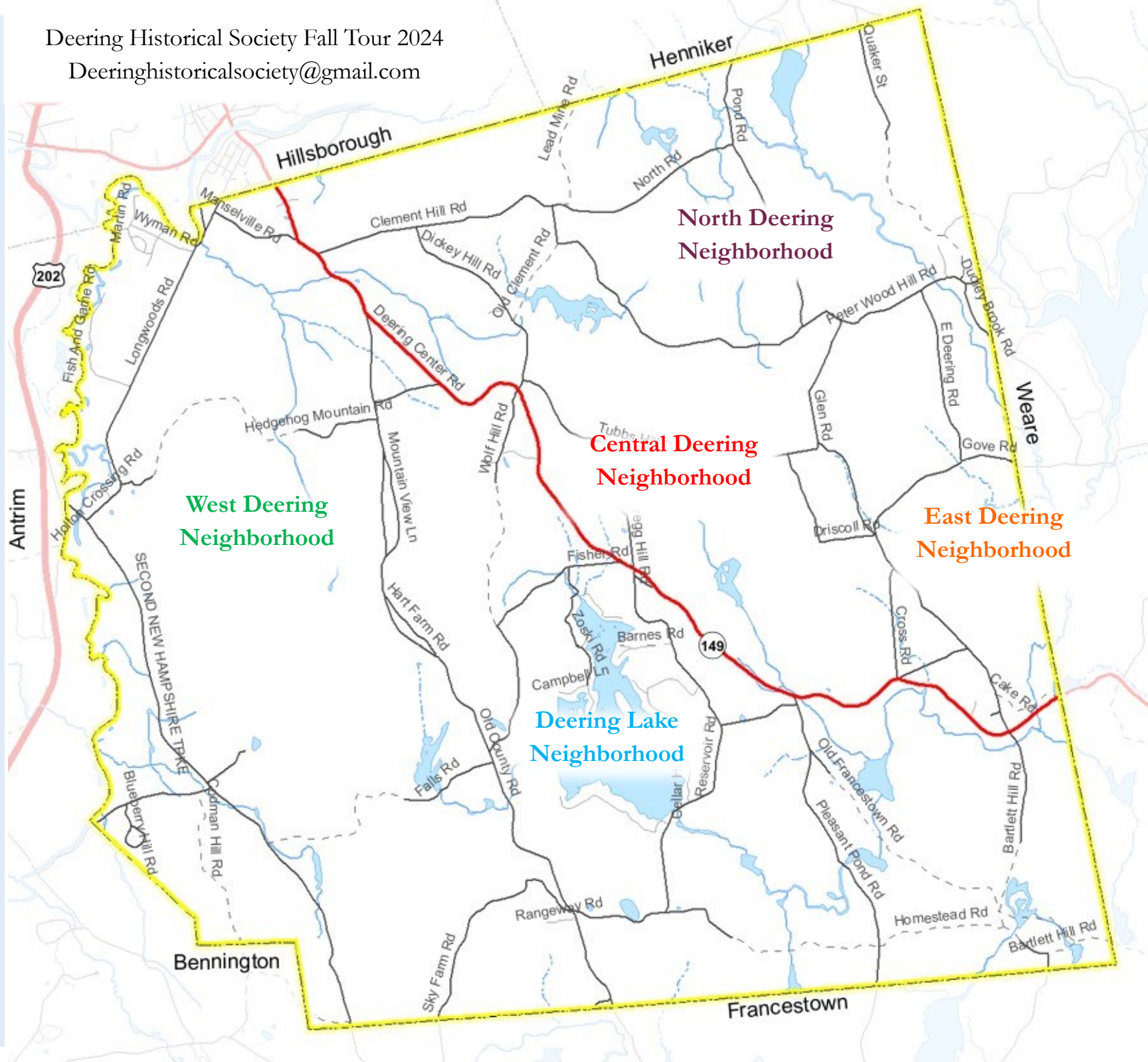
The literal Center of Deering is defined by the Town Hall, the Library (once a schoolhouse), and the Congregational Church. The nearby homes were at one time a store, post office, library, parsonage, and even a rural health center.

● Deering Lake Neighborhood

Deering Reservoir has had several different names, as well as uses over the course of time. Many of the first and important Town and Church leaders lived in this portion of Deering, and later different communities of people summering here left lasting impressions on Deering's development.

Deering Historical Society Fall Tour 2024

Deeringhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Deering People

It is good people who make good places

—Anna Sewall

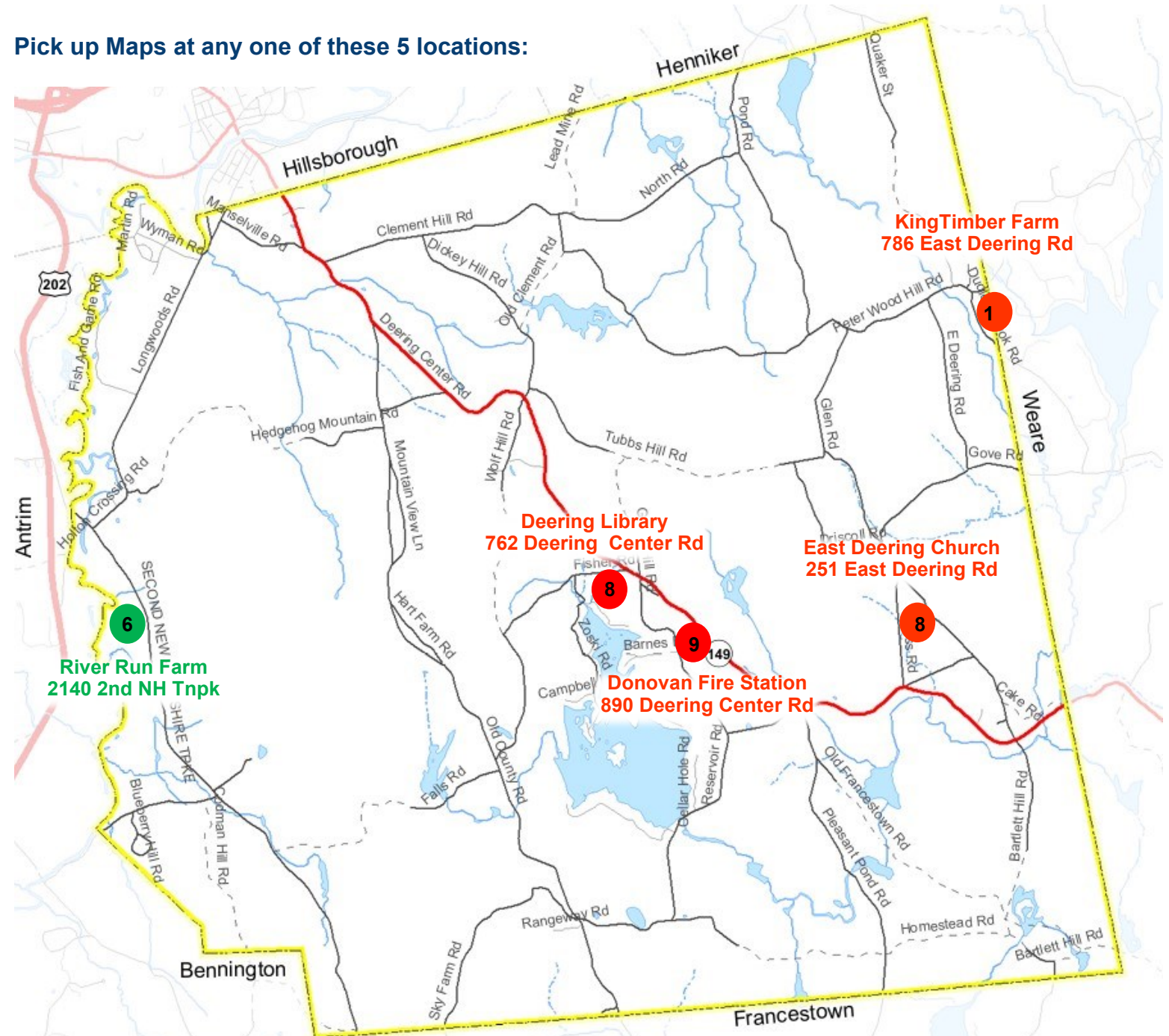
The history of Deering is the story of Deering people. We learn a lot about our Town by exploring the places and lives of the people who have called Deering home.

What makes a Deering-ite? It's not about being here first, or being here longest. We are newcomers and old-timers. We live here year round, or have owned property for multiple generations. Some of us are millionaires, some are living paycheck to paycheck. Some have always been here. Some are just passing through. Deering grabbed ahold of our imaginations and won't let go.

As people change, Deering changes. Some generations saw opportunity opening businesses and farms, creatively carving out a life here separate from busy urban areas. Some became more protective of Deering's peace and quiet.

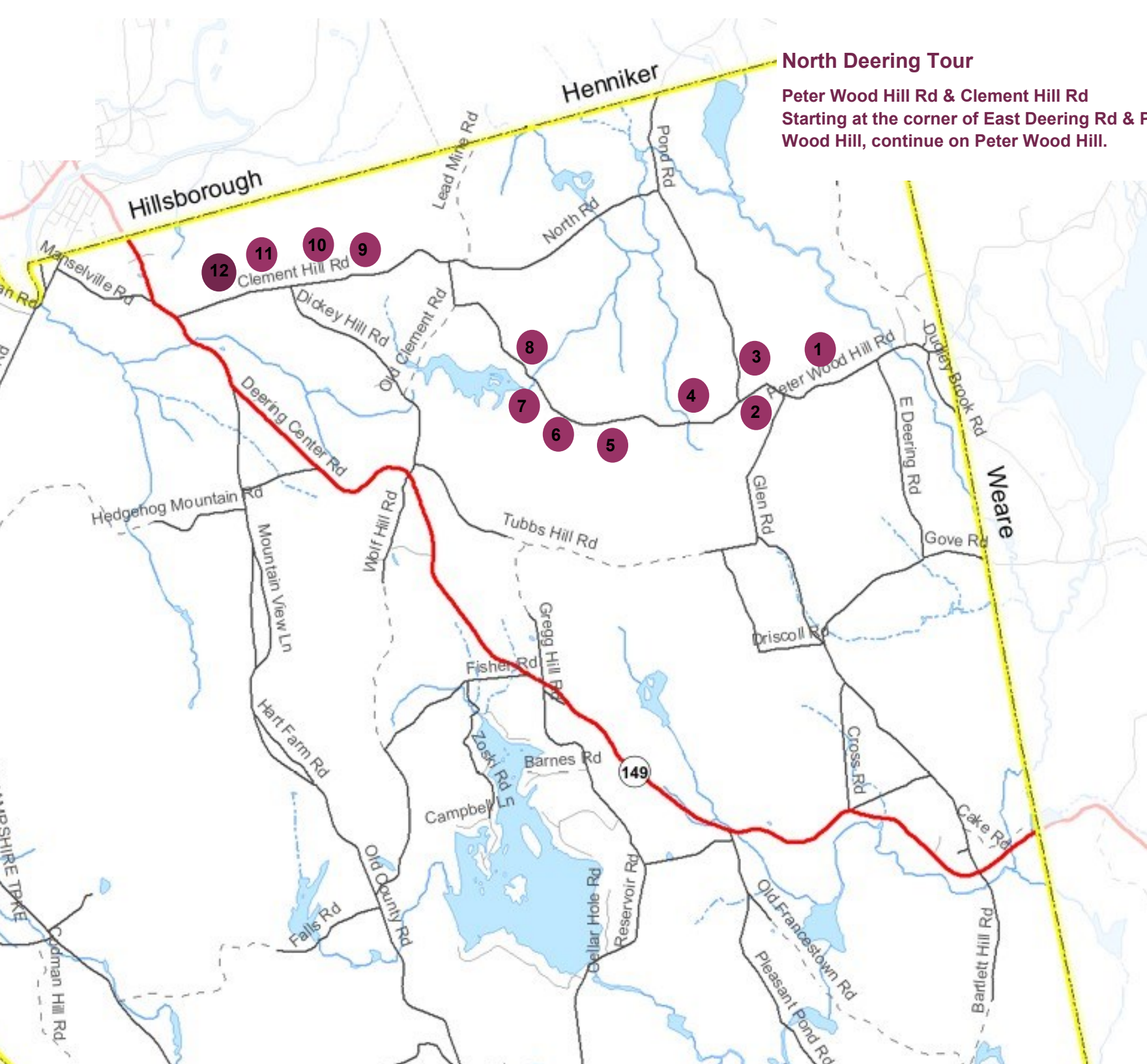
Who is Deering for? The conversation continues. Deering communities may be defined by physical boundaries, but residents are interconnected in fundamental ways and as individuals we have great impact on the place and on each other. Deering is a patchwork of shared experiences, from Concerts, to Chicken BBQs, to Holiday Events, Exhibits, Lectures, Town Meetings. We are a great quilt stitched together with good people.

Pick up Maps at any one of these 5 locations:



Deering Historical Society e.1980

Deeringhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



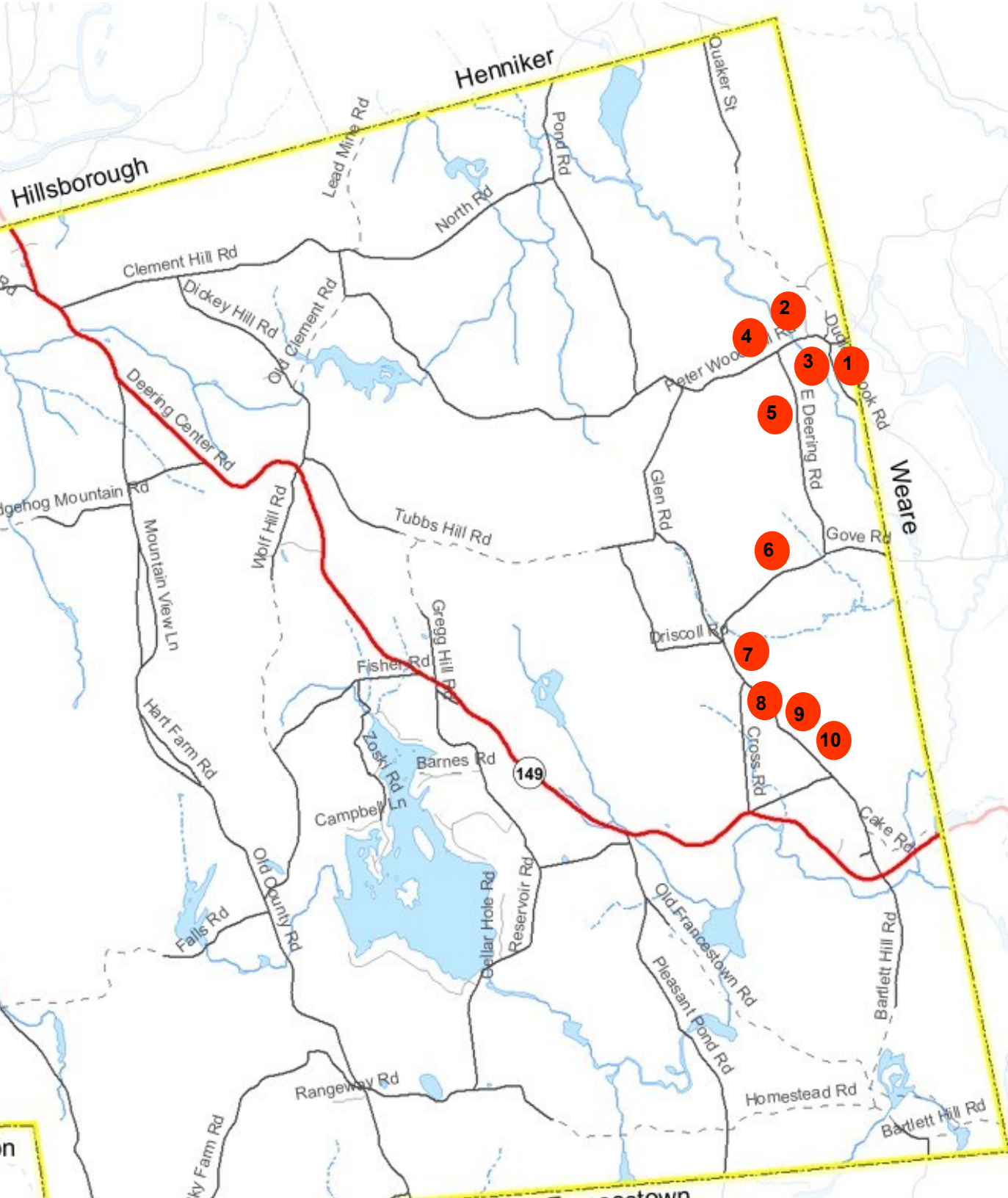
North Deering Tour

Peter Wood Hill Rd & Clement Hill Rd
Starting at the corner of East Deering Rd & Peter Wood Hill, continue on Peter Wood Hill.

1. Colonial House. b 1774. Originally built and occupied by the Gove family for which this hill is still named, Later bought by Peter Wood in the early 20th century, his family still live here.
2. Original site of the North Deering Schoolhouse. Located at the corner of Glen Rd and North Rd.
3. Beauty Spot. The Pinnacle. Entrance flagged. Conserved Land. Stop and take the short hike up to this beautiful view.
4. Cape House. b 1769. Originally built and occupied by the Patten family. Oldest recorded house in Town.
5. Old Town sand pit. This pit was closed in the early 2000's after the land purchased on Hedgehog Mt Rd.
6. Patten Cemetery. Stop at the Audubon Trailhead. Take a short hike into the wood. Several stones from families along this road are buried here.
7. Beauty Spot. The next Audubon Trail head stop and take a short hike to Black Fox Pond.
8. Brick house and barns. One of two remaining brick homes in Deering,

Take a left to continue on Clement Hill Rd which will turn to a paved surface as you travel downhill to meet Rt. 149.

9. Beauty Spot. Stop and admire this conservation land view atop Clement Hill Rd. overlooking Bear Hill in Hillsboro. By the end of the 19th century, this entire hill was bare of trees.
10. Colonial House. b 1794. Now Clement Hill Antiques, this home was once a boarding house in the 1800's owned by the Snickles.
11. Cape House. b 1773. Home of one of our first residents and selectmen, Elias Hassel. Across from Dickey Hill Rd.
12. Patriot Farm. Stop by they offer eggs, seasonal decorations, signs, handmade jewelry and next year hope to add local maple syrup and honey.



East Deering Tour

Starting at the Weare/Deering Townline, continue on East Deering Rd: until you meet Rt 149.

1. King Timber Farm. Originally the North Deering School House. Private residence now. Built in the early 1800's, closed in the late 1940's. Sold and moved from its original location. Clara Rich lived here and operated as Town Clerk from this building until she retired from public service in the 1960's.
2. Colonial House. b 1781. Built and owned by the Bartlett family.
3. Bartlett Family Cemetery. A private cemetery.
4. Mill Site. Visible remnants of a dam as crossing Dudley Brook. The dams were destroyed in the 1938 Hurricane. The Mills included a couple of saw mills and a grist.
5. Colonial House. b 1779. Originally built by Rueben Loverin, a well-respected builder of many fine homes in Deering and other townships and including both churches in Deering.
6. Cape House. b 1780.— Owned by the Locke family, our local legend Ebenezer who fired one of the first shots starting the American Revolution. Known as Lockhaven.
7. Cape House. b 1781. built and owned by the Whittaker family one of Deering's first and oldest families.
8. East Deering Center. Early 1800's. This neighborhood thrived during the early 1800's with a **Parsonage, Church, School house, Post Office and a little cottage** fondly called Friendship Cottage.
9. East Deering Cemetery. e 1851. Some of the original Deering families are buried here including George Patten who wrote the first and early history of Deering in the 1800's.
10. Cape House. b 1780. The Chase house one of Deering's first families.

1. King Timber Farm
Ashley and Michael King
786 East Deering Rd

Photos, Entertainment by
Michael King, Specials items
for sale

8 East Deering Church
(Deering Historical Society)
251 East Deering Rd

Exhibit is open and historical
docent available to answer
questions

West Deering Tour

Starting at Longwood Rd continue to Holton Crossing, take a left onto 2nd NH Turnpike.

1. The Rail Road came through West Deering in 1869, picking up milk and other local products from the farms, making passenger service to southern NH and Boston possible. Last train through was in 1972.
2. Fish and Game Club. e 1950. Private club surrounded by 100 acres of conserved land.
3. Train station. Now a private residence, this was once a stop along the Railroad.
4. Holton crossing. Once a band stand and a Black smith was in this area of West Deering.
5. 2nd NH Turnpike. Commissioned soon after the Revolutionary War, it connected the then capital of Amherst, NH to Claremont NH, offering Stagecoach passenger service until replaced by the Rail road.
6. River Run Farm. Once the McAlister farm which owned much of the fields you see in West Deering. It was a successful farm and remained in one family from the 1700's up until the last decade.
7. McAlister Fire station. b 1981. The only Town service in West Deering. Land was given to the Fire Department by the McAlister family .
8. Deering Airport e 1964. Opened by local resident David Feather on land once part of the McAlister Farm (River run). Known as the Hawthorne-Feather Airport. This land was also the Muster Fields and home to the Cork Plain Militia. From 1792-1848.

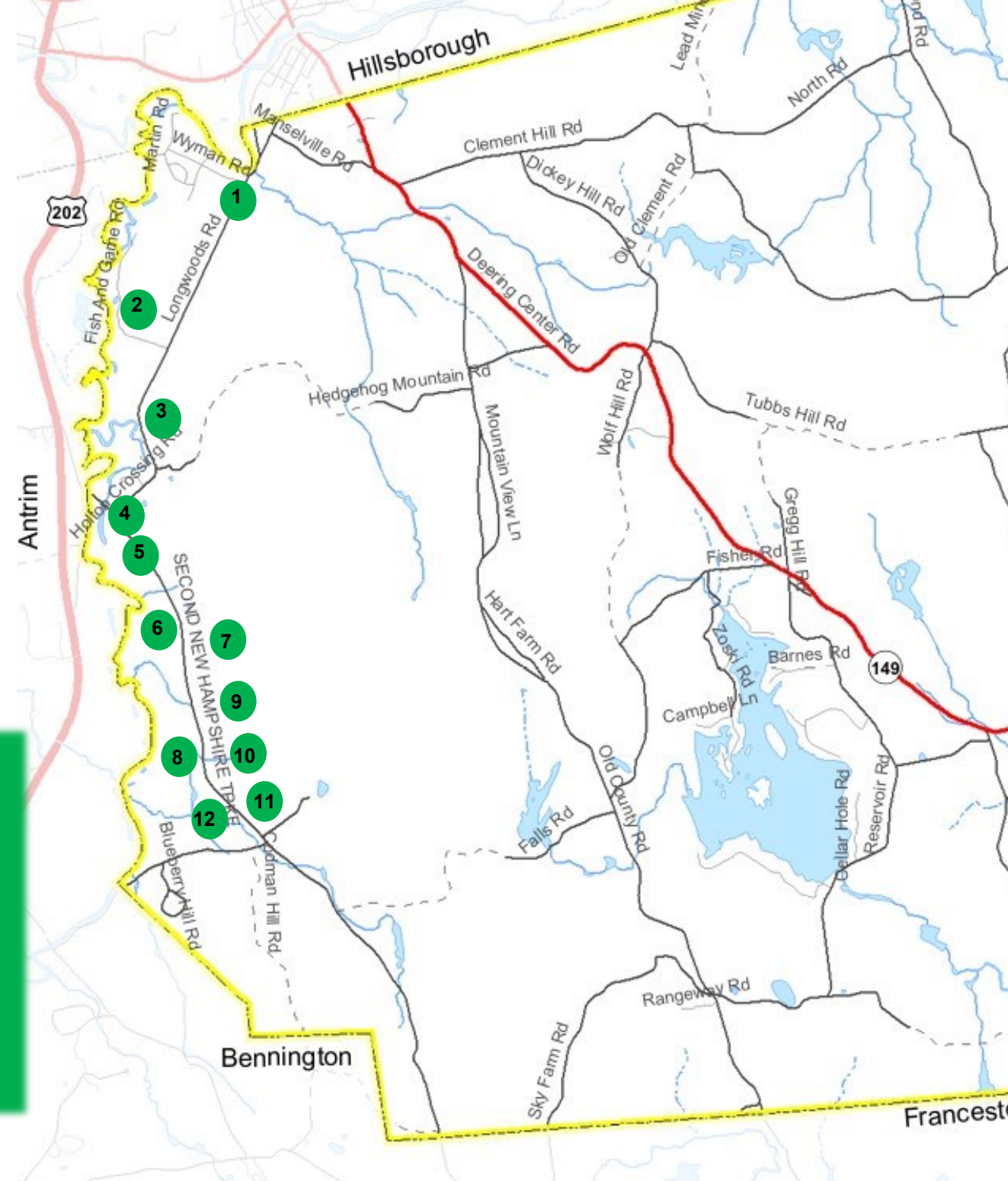
9. The Kiblin Farm. Remains of a large barn can be seen, lost to fire as many barns in Deering. This was once known as the Appleton Hotel for Stagecoach passengers, Drovers (East Coast Cowboys) and also a Post Office.
10. West Deering school house. Part of a private residence now, it was one of the last schoolhouses to close in the 1940's. The original burned and the Manselville Schoolhouse was moved to this location.
11. West Deering Cemetery. e 1811. War veterans from the Revolution, War of 1812 and Civil War are buried here.
12. Dollar Shy Farm. Stop by for a snack! This farm stand, offers baked goods, jams and jellies, eggs, meats, herbs and spice mixes,, pumpkins and cornstalks and more!

6. River Run Farm

Ashley and Keith Rose
2140 2nd NH Tnpk

Offering special baked items,
eggs, fresh milk, local produce,
meat and sausage.

Historical docent available to take
your questions and talk about
West Deering and the McAlister
Farm.



Central Deering Tour #1: Rte. 149

Starting at Oxbow Campground

1. Oxbow Campground. Once known as "Chick a Biddy Resort".
2. Colonial House b 1830's. Located on the corner of Manselville Rd and Rte 149, this house was once owned by the Appleton's that established the cemetery.
3. Butler and Appleton Cemeteries. e1800's.
4. Victorian House. b1880. The only original Victorian style house in Deering, named "Brookhaven".
5. Georgian Style Brick House. b 1789. One of two old brick houses in Deering. Our late Town Clerk and Falconry owner, Nancy Cowan resided here.
6. Beauty Spot. Conserved land with a fantastic view, was also the WW II lookout station for aircraft that residents took turns manning. Also once a farm owned by the Willgeroth family, only the barn remains.
7. His Mansion Ministries. Private property and now a Christian Recovery Program. Once home of the Poling family, Evangeline K Poling wrote "Welcome Home", Daniel Poling was a well respected minister and part of the Eleanor Campbell summer people.

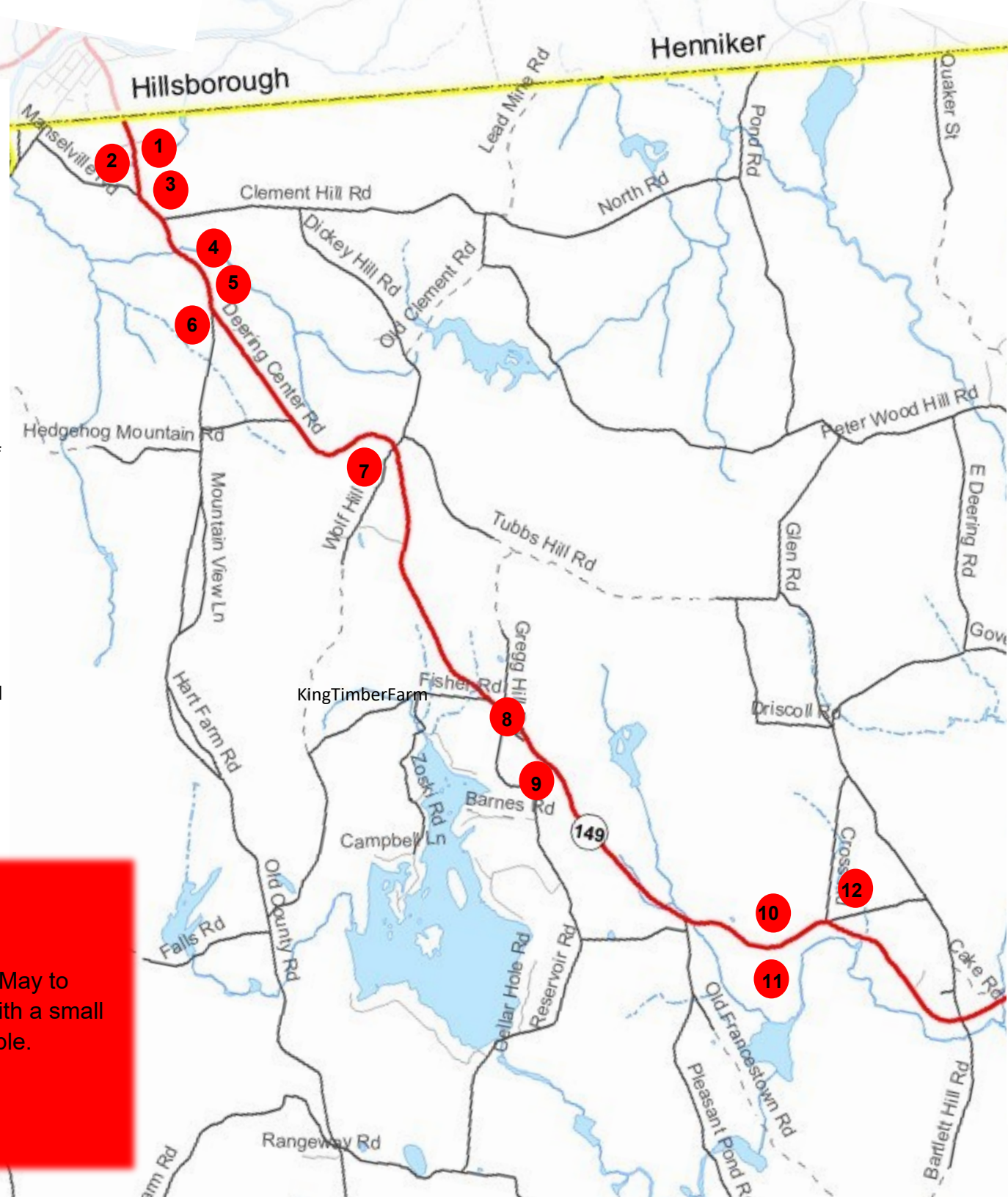
8. Deering Library

762 Deering Center Rd

Schoolhouse Library is opened mid May to Oct. Winter time, in the Town Hall with a small collection of books & puzzles available.

9. Donovan Fire Station

890 Deering Center Rd

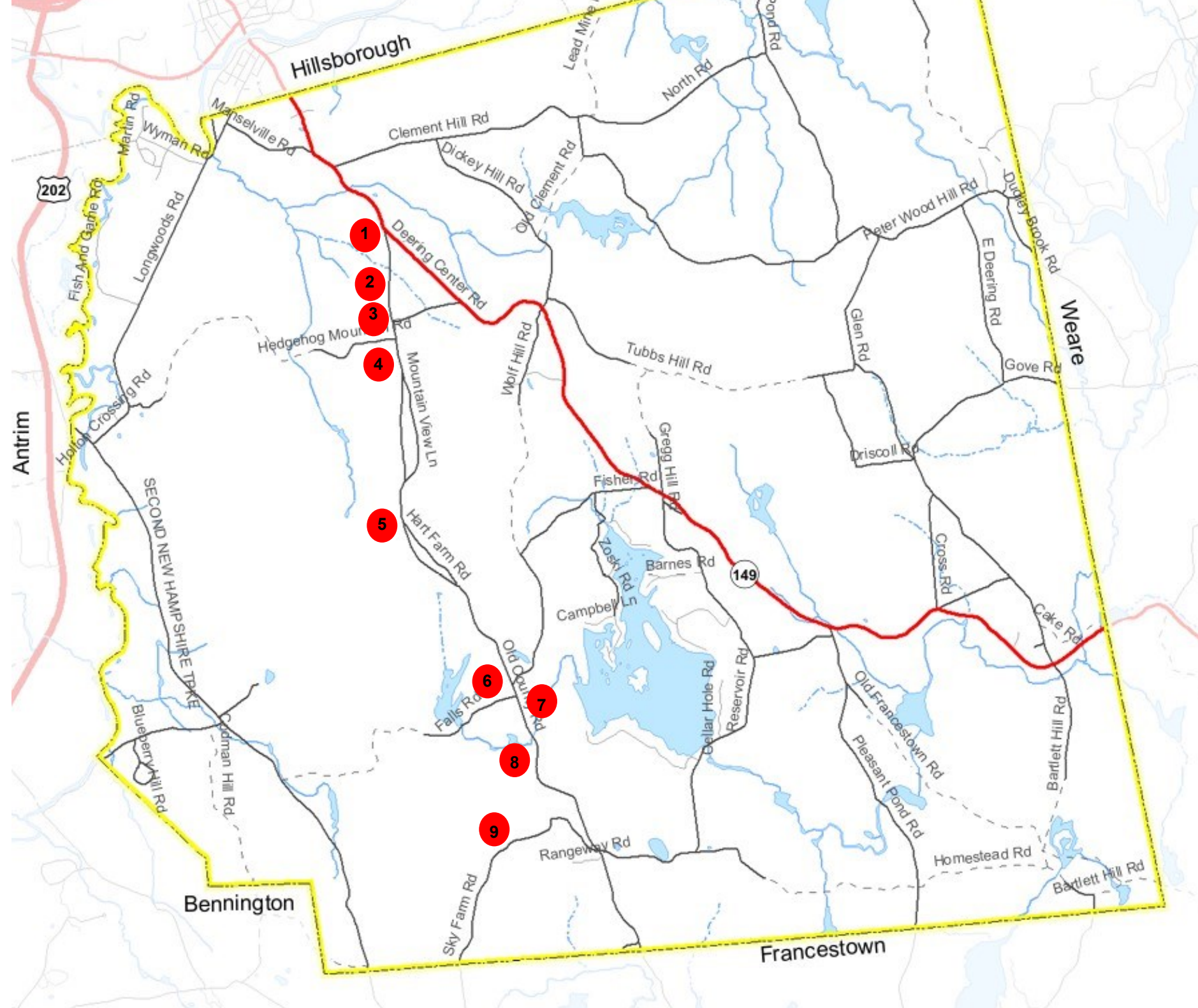


8. Deering Town Center . b 1789. The location of the **Town Hall** was established by NH courts it housed the Congregations Church until 1829 when **Deering Center Church** was built by Ruben Loverin. The house next to the Church once held the Library in the early 1800's and later hosted a **ski tow** in the 1960's. The **Library** is currently located in what was the **Center Schoolhouse** since 1926. Where the **Band stand** is was once the **Bellevue Hotel** boarding summer tourists it burned down in the 1800's. Also in the Town Center our **War Memorials**. The Colonial House next to the Town Hall was one of 3 **Post Offices** until 1915 and a **general store**. The Town Hall also is home to the **Police Department** and behind the Town Hall is the **Highway Department**.
9. Donovan Fire Station. b 1990. Named for Jeremy Donovan who was a selectman, lived in West Deering, was the first Chief integral and part of starting the Volunteer Fire Department.
10. The Wilds of New England e 2009. A Christian Association hosting summer camps and retreats. Originally the Kincaid farm, it was purchased by Eleanor Campbell in the 1930's and established as the Deering Community Conference Center. It has retained religious associations ever since.
11. Colonial House. b1930's. Across from The Wilds, is the house built as the parsonage for the Deering Center Community Church. It is now owned by The Wilds.
12. Deering General Store Site. b 1972. Located on the corner of Camp Rd and Rt 149. The last general store in operation in Deering owned by Burt Johnson sold to The Wilds around 2010.

**Central Deering Tour #2:
Old County Rd—designated “scenic
road”**

**Starting at “The Overlook” split at Rt 149
travelling toward Weare:**

1. Beauty Spot. This conserved field was also part of the Willgeroth farm, only the barn remains across the road. This site was also the designated WW II overlook, where residents took turns watching the sky for enemy planes.
2. Murdough Station. b 1975. It was the first fire-house built in Town and named after Keith Murdough, one of our first Fire Chiefs.
3. Bowen Schoolhouse. b 1800's. Now a private residence in its original location at the corner of Hedgehog Mt. Rd and Bowen School Rd.
4. Poor Farm Site. Purchased in 1844 sold in 1872. Then the poor were “farmed” out in Goffstown at the county facility or boarded out in Deering. Only the barn remains today.
5. Lotti Jacobi House. Located at corner of Hart Farm Rd and Old County Rd. This house was home to a famous American portrait photographer and photo journalist who lived in Deering until 1990 when she died at age 93. She was actively involved in the newly formed Conservation Commission in the early 1970's.
6. Cape House. b 1780. North Farm. This was built by the Wilkin family who sold land for the cemetery and the schoolhouse near this location, Falls Rd. or once known as Potash Hill.
7. Wilkin Schoolhouse Site. Located near the cemetery. Not in existence since 1919.
8. Wilkin Cemetery e 1825.
9. Beauty Spot. Just off Sky Farm Rd. known as the High Five. This conserved land is a short walk to a spectacular view.



Deering Lake Tour

Fisher Rd, Wolf Hill Rd, Reservoir Dr
Starting at the Library take Fisher Rd

1. Town Pound. Old historic structure to house loose animals during colonial times until the owners could reclaim them.
2. Colonial House. b 1775. The road is named for the family who lived in this house, who incidentally found themselves with a lot of lake front property after the dam was rebuilt following the Hurricane and flooding of 1938.

Continue on Wolf Hill Rd

3. Beauty Spot. The Wilkins-Campbell Forest. Our only conserved piece of the lakeshore . It has a view of the dam. A lovely picnic area and worth the short walk.
4. Cape House. b1780. Located near the Wilkins Campbell Forest, this house was built by one of our early settlers, the Forsaith family.
5. Colonial House. b 1790. One of the oldest houses in Town built in the 18th century. Many acres in this area of town was owned by Dr. Eleanor Campbell in the early 20th century.

Left at the end of Wolf Hill Rd. continue along Old County Rd then Left on Reservoir Rd. Back to Deering Center on Rt 149.

6. Pond School Site. b 1800's. Near Fulton Pond. A brick Schoolhouse demolished in the early 1900's. Some parts of the stone foundation can still be seen.
7. Reservoir Dam and Old Gregg Mill Site. The original dam was built 1793 across from the dam now. This dam rebuilt after the Hurricane of 1938 and reestablished as part of the engineered flood control project.
8. Colonial House. b 1790. Built by the Gregg family. The lake was once known as Gregg Lake for the dam and mill owned by the Gregg's.
9. Ellsworth Cemetery. Also has been known as the Goodale Lot.
10. New Colonial House. Rebuilt in kind after a fire, This was the site first rural health center established with Eleanor Campbell in the 1930's.
11. Colonial House. b 1790. This home was used as the parsonage for the Center Congregational Church before sold as a private residence.
12. Colonial House. b 1780. Next door to the Town Hall this house was once a post office and general store for the center of Town.

- Please respect peoples property and privacy as you tour.
- Reminder that these are not the only sites available or of value in Town and tours will change yearly.
- If you have ideas on how to make this better and more enjoyable please share.
- If you have questions on any sites please send them to us.
- We would love for you to share a photo of a special moment on your tour either by emailing or posting on our FB page.

