

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes July 09, 2025

Present: Lisa Hyatt, Janet Slocum, Gregg Thibodeau, Rob Traver

Not Available: Jennifer Bland, Kathi Bradt, (Select Board Representative), Mark Girard, Robin Ungeheuer

Public Attendance: Lindley Hanson

The meeting was called to Order at 7:02 pm.

Review/approve minutes of June 14th. Motion made by Janet, seconded by Rob. Minutes approved.

Public: No topic

Organizational

- **Funds/Budget**

- Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,914.85 -> \$3915.20; + credit \$0.35 interest
- Conservation Land Use Fund \$16,815.85 -> \$16,317.31; (-) \$500 Orchard Hill; (+) \$1.46 interest.

- **Conservation Plan**

- Lindley is providing an updated soil description. Gregg will update the plan.
- Gregg has posted the updated introduction, checked formatting, and completed a round of grammar checks.
- Signatures for the 2025 updates were secured at this meeting. The remaining members' signatures will be collected at the next meeting.
- This year's publication will occur with the following sections incomplete. Climate change, HVA goals, and some sections in the appendix.
- Janet to review and update the maps section in the appendix.
- Gregg will update the town website once the above items are complete and have copies printed for the library (2-3) and the town office (2-3)
- Janet raised a question about whether we should have a reference to priority resource areas (PRA) in the introduction, since landowners will have to agree to any designation of a PRA on their property. It was discussed, and an agreement reached to leave the reference in.

- **Conserving Land** – Options and town responsibilities

- Rob would like to see the municipal conservation easement holder option further investigated.
- Rob, Kathi, and Gregg to review the municipal information email that Rob provided. Gregg suggested we utilize a use case to better understand what the town's responsibilities would be.

- **By-Laws** – No changes

Forestry and Conservation

- **Land Protection**

- Intents to cut – No new
- Permits, complaints, and inquiries
 - Update map 223 lot 13 & Map 228 lot 7 (Clough Rd) Jurkoic & Kent - Timber Harvest with endangered species (Bullrush)
 - Rob confirmed that the Northeastern Bullrush is still endangered.
 - Rob had a conversation with US Fish and Wildlife and they advised the harvest provide a 100' buffer around the endangered plant.
 - Rob discussed this with Jurkoic and he confirmed that he and his forester are not harvesting in the areas where this plant has been identified or is suspected.
 - No further action is required.
- South Acworth Forest (map 249, lot 9) – Mark G. is seeking another logger's opinion to help with our decision.

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- Conservation
 - Sirkin Gove Road Property & Conservation
 - Gregg met with Sussanah Sirkin. She confirmed that her property is in an irrevocable trust with limitations on development that will conserve this property. She offered to provide the language in the trust. Gregg will request the language.
 - No further action needed.
 - Gates Mountain Land Conservation effort
 - Hill Road Conservation effort
- Easement Monitoring – No change
- Multi-Town Pollinator Project (see email – Multi-town.)
 - Gregg to forward the email on this topic to Lisa, Lindley, and Janet. They are interested in learning more about this effort.
- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Keyes Hollow HVA actions
 - The June 16th assessment with CT River Conservancy, NH DES, US Fish and Wildlife, and a biologist was very positive. [Keyes Hollow Initial Assessment Meeting Notes - 20250616 v2.pdf](#)
 - All the groups agreed that this area should be a prime candidate for an effort to return Tracy Brook to its original flow and rebuild the wetland in that area.
 - Several options exist to complete and fund the creation of an assessment. Several alternatives exist to accomplish the task of returning the flow to its original path. Options also exist with the project management of this effort.
 - Rob volunteered to project manage this effort. Members agreed that we should have clear expectations of any effort that is project managed. Rob agreed to create a draft of the scope and goal for this initial effort.
 - Crescent Lake
 - Watershed assessment update. Assessment due this month. The Water Quality Group meeting on 7/10 will include another update from the engineering contractor. A public review of the assessment will be conducted on 2 August. Gregg will provide the flyer to our commission members and volunteers.
 - Land Survey Update (map 201, lot 108) – 19 border segments have been evaluated, and 7 of them require agreements and/or adjustments. Kathi, Gregg, and the surveyor have begun meeting with the individual landowners. The first landowner has agreed to an approach to resolve the border issue. Kathi and Gregg have secured attorney guidance and support from the Select Board. Kathi, Gregg, and the surveyor meet again on 10 July.

Communications, Training, and Outreach

- **Community Outreach**
 - Newsletter – next topics and next writer(s); draft due the 20th of the prior month
 - A recommendation was made to have a newsletter discussing an invasive species or an endangered species. Gregg to send out the URL to our previous presentation, and Gregg will create an article for the August newsletter.
 - Gregg Aug Invasives and/or endangered species
 - Mark Oct Black bear practices
 - Rob Jan Land Conservation Options
 - TBD Apr TBD
 - TBD Jul TBD

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- Other possible educational topics include seasonally relevant topics, climate change impacts, water quality issues, invasive species, and endangered species.
- Sullivan County Conservation District and its “new” Nature Conservancy program (Rob)
- Volunteer Field Events
 - Crescent Lake Boundary Marking and Cleanup - Pending survey markings.
- Keyes Hollow Nature Trail – Report on June 29th visit. The visit was very productive, and it was agreed that the nature trail is a worthwhile initiative. Gregg to send out highlights, next steps, and a map of the proposed trail.
- Dodge Hollow Trail – Lisa asked about this trail and the parking. Gregg explained that this trail was discussed at a Select Board meeting with a willing abutting landowner. A draft design of a parking area was created and provided to the abutting landowner. There is an issue with a municipality's leading and effort on a Class VI road that has to be addressed. [DRAFT Dodge Hollow Parking and Gate Recreation Plan.pdf](#) This is a recreational effort and outside of the Concom's scope.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

- **Next Meeting** – 13 August at 7 pm in the Town Hall.

Conservation Commission Members

- Jennifer Bland (co-chair)
- Gregg Thibodeau (co-chair)
- Kathi Bradt (Select Board rep.)
- Mark Girard
- Janet Slocum
- Rob Traver
- Robin Ungeheuer (alt)
- Lisa Hyatt (alt)

Contact information:

- Webpage <https://www.acworthnh.net/conservation-commission>
- E-mail acworthconservation@gmail.com
- Meeting 7:00 p.m. every 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Town Hall
- Mail 13 Town Hall Rd., P.O. Box 37, Acworth, NH 03601, Attention: Conservation Commission
- Phone 603-835-6879 (town office)