

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2026

Attendance

- Present
 - Janet Slocum (member), Gregg Thibodeau (co-chair), Lisa Hyatt (member), Rob Traver (member), Mark Girard (member), Lindley Hanson (member), Kathi Bradt (select board)
- Absent - Jennifer Bland (member, co-chair), Geoff Jones (member), Robin Ungeheuer (alt),

Review/approve minutes

- Motion made (Kathi) and seconded (Mark) to approve minutes of February 18th. Motion passed.

Public (if any)

Administrative, Organizational, and Finance

- **Funds/Budget**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,916.65 -> \$3,916.82 (+) \$0.17 interest
 - Conservation Land Use Fund \$18,134.24 -> \$33,135.28 ; (+) \$15,000 deposit (grant) + \$1.04 interest.
- **By-Laws**
 - No changes proposed to the by-laws. Gregg to annotate the Updates and Revisions table on the last page of the bylaws.
- **Conservation Plan**
 - Members reviewed the current activities being conducted for our 5-priority high-value areas (HVA). It was agreed that all the actions being conducted or planned for the Crescent Lake HVA adequately address water quality, and the effort to update the forest management plan will adequately address wildlife habitat, stewardship, and forest resiliency.
 - The Keyes Hollow HVA will continue with the effort to conduct a functional wetland assessment and an alternatives analysis, utilizing the funds received from the Davis Foundation in 2026.
 - We do not have any actions planned other than the annual monitoring, permit reviews, or addressing complaints for the other 3 HVA's; however, we also agreed that we do not have any additional bandwidth at this time.
 - Given the above, there were no changes proposed to the Conservation Plan; however, we never posted signatures in March of 2025. Meeting minutes indicate that we completed our annual review in March of 2025. Therefore, we obtained signatures and backdated them to March 2025. Gregg to post in the Conservation Plan on our Shared Drive.
- **Transition**
 - Concom Email - Janet was able to access the Concom email. Gregg had to update the Gmail recovery e-mail with Janet's e-mail. Gregg will update the Continuity plan with this task. Janet will work with Lindley to get access.
 - OneDrive – Gregg is working with Charlotte to load all our Concom files to a municipal computer and to share the files and folders via OneDrive. Janet noticed some other files that did not appear to be Concom files. Gregg will clean up the current OneDrive and only provide Charlotte with the necessary Concom files. Once the files are available via the municipal computer and the new OneDrive, Gregg will remove all access to the current OneDrive.
 - Continuity Binder

- Gregg obtained a cost from Doolittle Printing. \$141 for 3 binders or \$85 for one binder. Gregg to initiate the binder production for 3 binders and coordinate with Charlotte to pay for the binders out of the Conservation Land Use Fund.
- One binder will stay in the office. Two binders will be available for members to “sign out” and return them to the office.

Forestry and Conservation

- **Land and Wildlife Protection**
 - Intents to cut – None to review, however, it appears that some cutting is occurring on 123A near Tucker Road and the town border with Lempster. The work may have been approved as an excavation, but it was not clear to this commission. Mark will stop by and look at the posted permits to attempt to determine what type of work is occurring, and if an intent to cut is required, and determine if there is an intent to cut posted. If not, then Mark will inquire with Charlotte to see if notices were made to the town office.
 - Permits, complaints, and inquiries - None
 - Acworth Forest Harvest (map 249, lot 9) – No change; Mark G. is seeking the logger's recommendation for the harvesting and skidding of the timber cut, working directly for the town.
 - Land Conservation opportunities – no change; Sirkin Gove Road, Gates Mountain Road, and Hill Road properties. An effort is required to define generic conservation land options for landowners.
 - Easement Monitoring – Pending the following reports – Jen – LCIP - Five Points, Sugar House, Moody, & SPNHF - Black North; Gregg (ETA 3/13) - LCIP – Clark Hillside, Clark Sugar House, and SPNHF Gove Road; Mark – SPNHF - Keyes Hollow and the town’s South Acworth Forest. Gregg to forward Mark the link to the SPNHF form to use for South Acworth Forest.
 - Pollinator Project – we discussed several options for on-site advertising.
- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Keyes Hollow Wetland Assessment
 - Current activities include: (1) Continued CT River Conservancy and Select Board coordination to complete 2 RFP’s. (2) Once posted, we will review responses to the RFP’s and select one or 2 vendors. (3) Schedule a review with the abutters, (4) apply for a \$4000 grant to the Acworth Charitable Trust. (5) Obtain final additional funds (estimated \$1000-\$2000) from Concom. One risk that is likely to be part of one or more of the alternatives is the closing/removal of the Class VI designation of the Keyes Hollow Road. This could influence our alternative selection decision. It was recommended that we might want to get this topic to the Select Board and keep them engaged on our effort.
 - Crescent Lake
 - Watershed assessment update – Water Quality Group has been meeting with a potential project manager candidate. At this point, in the process, this candidate seems like very likely choice.
 - Land Survey update – Tasks include: (1) meet with 4 remaining landowners (two separate meetings); (2) complete any adjustments or agreements as needed. (3) Finish boundary marking; (4) Solicit feedback and interest from land trusts (Society, Monadnock, others?)
 - Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) – Stream, ditch, and culvert inventory effort. (1) Gregg to follow up with UVLSRPC contact to determine when the work will be final. (2) Establish a maintenance plan and process with responsible and supporting roles. This may require a purchase of iPads and incur some labor costs to load/access data for maintenance. All the data collected will be available via ArcGIS web tools for us on desktops, laptops, and mobile portable devices like phones and tablets.

Communications, Training, and Outreach

• Community Outreach

- Newsletter – next topics and next writer(s); draft due the 20th of the prior month
 - Gregg Apr Crescent Lake Watershed Assessment
 - Gregg Apr Green-Up Day Notice
 - Lisa/Janet May Pollinator Article
 - Other possible educational topics: climate change impacts; land conservation.
- Green-up Day
 - Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22; we agreed to April 25th and 26th for our Green-up date. Pickup of bags will take place on Monday, April 27th.
 - The option was discussed to ask for cleanup on the 4 major access roads and/or the roads that folks live on. It was agreed that the major access roads tend to see a large amount of litter. We also discussed an option to have a contest for things like the most bags retrieved. Or ask folks which beer company was more frequently collected.
 - Gregg – Update flyer and provide to Acworth Newsletter
 - Jen – Post flyer in town offices
 - Lisa – Post event notice on Facebook
 - Jen – Provide blue bags and sign-in sheets to the town hall and store
 - Jen – Coordinate pickup with the Highway crew and receipt by Transfer Station
- Volunteer Field Events - Keyes Hollow Nature Trail; Gove Road Stream Erosion Effort; Pollinator Garden walk-thru; educational sessions with speakers; collaborative events with other ConCom or conservation agencies; schedule events with a food vendor or music.

Next Meeting: 15 Apr 2026 at 7 pm in the Town Hall

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Conservation Commission Members & Alternates

- Jennifer Bland (co-chair) (3/2026)
- Gregg Thibodeau (co-chair) (3/2026)
- Kathi Bradt (Select Board rep.) (3/2026)
- Mark Girard (member) (3/2027)
- Janet Slocum (member) (3/2028)
- Rob Traver (member) (3/2026)
- Lisa Hyatt (member) (3/2027)
- Lindley Hanson (member) (3/2028)
- Robin Ungeheuer (alternate) (3/2027)
- Geoff Jones (member) (3/2029)

Contact information:

- Webpage <https://www.acworthnh.net/conservation-commission>
- Email 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)

Concom Volunteers

- Jennifer Griffin
- Terry Mattson
- Scott Travers
- Chip Colello
- David Heacock

