

Conservation Commission Minutes

Aug 12, 2026 7PM

- Present –Lindley Hanson (co-chair), Kathi Bradt (select board), Mark Girard, (member) Jeff Jones (member) Lisa Gregg Thibodeau (past chair and advisor),
- Absent – Janet Slocum (co-chair), Lisa Hyatt (member), Jennifer Bland (member), Robin Clark (member)

Meeting started 7:10

Review/approve minutes

- July minutes were approved. Incorrect heading (agenda) noted and changed.
- Current funds were reviewed

Forestry and Conservation: Permits, complaints and inquiries

- Acworth Forest Harvest (map 249, lot 9) – No change; Mark G. is seeking the logger's recommendations for the harvesting and skidding of the timber cut, working directly for the town.
- Peter Rhodes created a plan Gove Forest 20 years ago and the plan needs to be updated. Co-Chairs should contact Peter to see if he would update the plan with focus on resiliency, addressing new and future problems such as invasives species, beach blight, possible loss of hemlock as a valuable timber resource, etc.
- Jeff Sitkin completed the plan for the South Acworth forest, which has minimal timber value.
- We need to find an environmentally friendly logger.

- Turbidity issues on Dodge Brook related to the Lempster racetrack continues. Turbidity events and locations are being documented by Jennifer Bland, Linda Perry and Mark Girard. Jeff strongly suggested notifying DES. Jen, Greg and Mark are following up on it. Mark suggested bringing the presence of native brown trout in Dodge Brook and fodder for action. Lynda has taken numerous pictures documenting the pollution.

- Jeff brought up noise pollution from rifle “range” on Turkey Hill Road and its affect on wildlife as well as neighbors.

- Easement Monitoring –
 - LCIP – Lindley & Janet monitored Roy Sugar House, Roy Farm, Brushy Hill Farm (new), Clark and Moody with Samantha Simpson on 7/22, reports & letter.
 - SPNHF – Janet monitored Gove Forest (380 acres) with Ilissa Sargent from SPNHF, register survey and deed amendment

- Future concerns:
 - Land Conservation opportunities – no change; Sirkin Gove Road, Gates Mountain Road, and Hill Road properties. To move this along an effort is required to define a list of conservation land options and procedures for landowners. Kathie suggested writing a welcome to conservation – Pathways to landowners – Jeff agreed to put together a draft proposal to encourage to put land in conservation.
 - David_____ Arc GIS person could possible evaluate lands for possible conservation value

Water Protection (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)

- Conservation Zone Ordinance update– Janet
- Keyes Hollow Wetland Assessment Review
 - Update on RFP’s for Keyes Hollow Assessments
 - 2 Rfps – functional wetland assessment / We have two possible engineers to do the work/ Greg is drafting up contracts

- Crescent Lake

- Watershed assessment update – Water Quality Group project management
- 18 properties are helping to lower phosphorous – mostly by adding vegetative buffers
- 29 action items to reduce phosphorous-most important are lake front properties / 4 projects (culverts) can qualify for a 319 grant is a for lake restoration – money can be used to update road and culverts
- Put on the agenda a review of the culvert assessment database – Greg will review it in the next meeting – Invite planning board to meeting
- Land Survey update – current state and next steps:
 - Map 201 101 has a leach field on town property / reached out to the property owner / alerted planning board that they may be a lot line change
 - There are 4 properties that have yet to be assessed
- UVLSRPC – culvert survey done – Greg offered to do a quick review next meeting. Should we schedule a community presentation?
- Cold River Council? Who is interested here and in other towns along the Cold River.
- Jeff suggested updating the agenda to be more relevant.

Communications, Training, and Outreach

- Community Outreach
 - Charlestown Con Com Public Meeting, Sept. 22, on Plastics requests area con coms.
- NHACC and F & G Commission are organizing regional meetings to promote better collaboration between F & G Commission and the public. They want to know if Acworth would help sponsor one of these meetings. F & G will help organize.
- As recommended by the Sullivan County ConCom meeting, we should make an attempt to attend other town ConCom meetings.
- Newsletter – next topics and next writer(s); draft due the 20th of the prior month
 - Mark – bears
 - Other possible educational topics: climate change impacts; land conservation options.
- TBA? Potential Volunteer Field Events - Keyes Hollow Nature Trail; Gove Road Stream Erosion Effort; educational sessions with speakers; collaborative events with other ConCom or conservation agencies.
- Training Opportunities
 - Green Stormwater Regulations webinar- Wed Aug 26 1-2

Next Meeting – 9 Sept 2026 at 7 pm in the Town Hall.

Janet needs to talk to Charlotte about switching the office key with a key to the lower door

Meeting adjourned @ 8:45

NHACC and F & G Commission are organizing regional meetings to promote better collaboration between F & G Commission and the public. They want to know if Acworth would help sponsor one of these meetings. F & G will help organize.

- o Newsletter – next topics and next writer(s); draft due the 20th of the prior month
 - Mark – bears
 - Other possible educational topics: climate change impacts; land conservation options.
- o Volunteer Field Events - Keyes Hollow Nature Trail; Gove Road Stream Erosion Effort; educational sessions with speakers; collaborative events with other ConCom or conservation agencies.
- Training Opportunities
 - o Green Stormwater Regulations webinar- Wed Aug 26 1-2

Next Meeting – 9 Sept 2026 at 7 pm in the Town Hall.

Janet needs to talk to Charlot about switching keys