

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2026

Attendance

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

Review/approve minutes

- Motion made to approve the January 14th meeting minutes—motion made by Janet, 2nd by Lisa. Motion passed.

Public - None

Administration, Organizational, and Finance

- **Funds/Budget**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,916.48 -> \$3,916.65 (+) \$0.17 interest
 - Conservation Land Use Fund \$18,133.47 -> \$18,134.24 ; (+) \$0.77 interest.
- **By-Laws and Conservation Plan** – No change; both will be reviewed in March of 2026.
 - Request made that all members and alternates review the plan and bylaws prior to our next meeting.
 - [Acworth Conservation Plan 2024 Revision 2.docx](#)
 - [Bylaws of the Acworth Conservation Commission - March 2025.docx](#)
- **Review continuity plan**
 - The team reviewed the plan. Two changes were identified. Add the building key reference and update the URL's to the Concom files once Gregg has transitioned the files to a town computer. Gregg is working with Charlotte to enable OneDrive access for all members of the commission.
 - [Acworth Conservation Commission Continuity Plan - DRAFT.docx](#)
 - A recommendation was made to create one or 2 hard copies of this plan and make one available for any member to borrow and another to stay in the town hall.
- **Organization**
 - Geoff Jones introduced himself. Geoff has an extensive background in conservation with a focus on land management. He has decades of experience working with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF). He also has many years of experience as the chair of the Stoddard Conservation Commission. He contributed to and led several large conservation projects, including securing grant funds. Geoff indicated that he would like to support our Conservation Commission.
 - Gregg, Rob, and Jennifer's terms end this March. All three do not intend to continue as members in the commission.
 - Currently, the commission has 6 of 7 members and 3 of 3 alternates.
 - The following changes were discussed, a motion made by Gregg and 2nd by Mark. The member changes will be recommended to the Select Board at the next Select Board meeting.
 - Lisa, Lindley, and Geoff Jones will become members.
 - Janet and Lindley will assume co-chair responsibilities beginning in April.
 - Gregg will continue to attend meetings through August if needed, and to discuss the 4 projects that he intends to continue to support.

- The Commission reviewed the upcoming assignment of a Select Board member to the Commission. It was agreed that, given the change of leadership in the commission, it would help with continuity if Kathi were to remain as our Select Board representative.
- Town Annual Meeting Announcement
 - Gregg and Lisa will ask to speak at the Acworth Annual Town Meeting. Gregg to check with the moderator.

Forestry and Conservation

- **Land and Wildlife Protection**
 - Intents to cut – 25-001-13 Rhoades, map 252 lot 8 – members did not have any concerns with this cut.
 - Permits, complaints, and inquiries – Inquiry was made regarding the use of bubblers on a DES-managed water body. The following references regarding the use of bubblers.
 - https://www.google.com/search?q=NH+DES+use+of+water+bubblers+to+prevent+ice&oq=NH+DES+use+of+water+bubblers+to+prevent+ice&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOdIBCTMwMzkwajBqN6gCCLACAQ&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8
 - RSA - <https://law.justia.com/codes/new-hampshire/title-xxii/chapter-270/section-270-33/>
 - NH Lakes - <https://nhlakes.org/dock-de-icers/#:~:text=Dock%20bubblers%20are%20de%20Dicers%20that%20release%20air,Be%20controlled%20with%20timers%20and/or%20temperature%20controllers>
 - LSPA - <https://www.lakesunapee.org/dock-deicers>
 - The town does not have any zoning ordinances for this topic.
 - 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.
 - 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 2/24) - LCIP – Clark Hillside, Clark Sugar House, and SPNHF Gove Road; Mark – SPNHF - Keyes Hollow and the town's South Acworth Forest
- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Keyes Hollow Wetland Assessment Review
 - The next step is to hire someone to conduct the wetland functional assessment and develop recommended options. This will require a Request for Proposal (RFP) or 2 RFP's. Rob has drafted an RFP for the functional assessment and received input from Gregg. Rob will create a draft RFP for the recommended options analysis.
 - We also discussed the timeline for the hiring process, onboarding, and any field work, with a goal of completing the assessments prior to October 2026.
 - It was decided that we should target the March 16th select board to get approval for the 2 RFP's. And then target the Concom April 8th meeting to review candidates and possibly make a selection.
 - It was also recommended that both RFP's be reviewed by Jen for her experience in the town portion of RFP's.
 - Gregg and Rob will continue to support this effort as volunteers.
 - Crescent Lake
 - Watershed assessment update – The Water Quality Group is moving forward with the selection of a project manager to organize and lead the 2026 priorities based on

the watershed assessment. Gregg will continue to support this initiative as a volunteer.

- Land Survey update – 3 properties remain with boundary discussions that need to occur with the landowners. A walk with the property owners will occur when the snow is gone. Gregg will continue to support this effort as a volunteer.
- Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) – Stream, ditch, and culvert inventory effort. Gregg will continue to work with Jen and UVLSRPC to complete this effort.

Communications, Training, and Outreach

• Education

- University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension announced that a two-year process to update the NH State Wildlife Action Plan is complete, and the Action Plan is now available. It establishes conservation priorities for wildlife and habitats across the state through 2035. A recommendation was made for the members and alternates to read through the plan prior to recommending changes to our Natural Resources Inventory/Index and Conservation Plan.
 - <https://www.takingactionforwildlife.org/blog/2026/02/2025-nh-state-wildlife-action-plan-now-available>

• Community Outreach

- Newsletter – next topics and next writer(s); draft due the 20th of the prior month
 - Gregg Feb and March Endangered Species 2 parts
 - Gregg Apr Crescent Lake Watershed Assessment
 - Other possible educational topics: climate change impacts; land conservation options.
- Volunteer Field Events - Keyes Hollow Nature Trail; Gove Road Stream Erosion Effort; educational sessions with speakers; collaborative events with other ConCom or conservation agencies.

Next Meeting – 11 Mar 2026 at 7 pm in the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 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 (alternate) (3/2027)
- Lindley Hanson (alternate) (3/2028)
- Robin Ungeheuer (alternate) (3/2027)

Concom Volunteers

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

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)