

September 10, 2025

Review/approve minutes of August 13th – Lacked a quorum of members; These minutes will be reviewed at our October meeting

Public

- Reviewed Dodge Hollow effort; signs are being created for the Acworth portion of the Class VI Road and Class A trail. A letter for the abutters is being created. A concern was raised regarding unauthorized motorized traffic that could ruin the condition of the trail. The only authorized motorized traffic is for abutters and only for agricultural or forestry purposes. Stones were placed at the entrance of the Class A trail to but one of them was moved, which allows vehicular traffic. A question was raised if the trail can be permanently “gated” to prevent all motorized traffic.

Organizational

- Chip Corello introduced himself as an interested volunteer and would like to assist in some of our projects.
- Lindley Hanson was approved by the Select Board as an alternate member. Lindley will contact Charlotte to be sworn in.
- **Funds/Budget**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,915.51 -> \$3,915.84; (+) \$0.33 interest
 - Conservation Land Use Fund \$16,318.60 -> \$16,319.99 (+) \$1.39 interest
- **Conserving Land – Rob and Gregg** are going to review the latest documentation that we received to see if it provides enough information to describe the effort associated with a town holding an easement for a private landowner.
- **By-Laws and Conservation Plan** – Gregg has begun work on our Acworth Concom roles and responsibilities that can be added to either the by-laws or conservation plan.

Forestry and Conservation

- **Land Protection**
 - Intents to cut - Members reviewed both intents to cut and found no issues with either of them.
 - 25-001-10 Map 231 Lot 11; Charlestown Road; Luther, Stoddard Lumber (Bryer); 30 of 198 acres; 325 MBF; 100 tons of pulp; 8 cords cordwood; board approved 18 Aug 25.
 - Pending Select Board Review – Map 250 Lot 1; NH Route 123A; Tarmey, Corbran; 69.5 of 117.75 acres; 231 MBF; 4100 tons; 12 cords cordwood; pending board review.
 - Permits, complaints, and inquiries
 - Crescent Lake DES Complaint – 2025-01517 – No conclusive evidence. Closed.
 - Acworth Forest (map 249, lot 9) – **Mark G. is seeking another logger's opinion** to help with our decision.
 - Conservation – no change; pending Conserved Land action above by Rob and Gregg.
 - Sirkin Gove Road Conservation – Language was built into the trust according to the Sirkins.
 - Gates Mountain Land Conservation
 - Hill Road Land Conservation
 - Easement Monitoring – **Jen to follow up with SPNHF PAN Northern 2024 monitoring report**; At the October meeting, the assignments will be reviewed. Members and volunteers are welcome to participate.
 - Multi-Town Pollinator Project – Update provided by Janet, Lindley, and Lisa. Janet and Lindley were able to attend a session with the broader group. Members agreed that we should continue advocating individual landowners' best practices. A recommendation was made that we solicit the town, via the newsletter and possibly the Facebook page, for anyone who is actively managing their property or a portion of their property for pollinators. The goal would be to see where we might have an opportunity for a pollinator pathway. **Lisa and Janet create a short inquiry** to be used to solicit responses. A recommendation was also made to solicit gardens or even tend a garden as an example. **Gregg to reach out to Sue Beaudreau** to determine if she has been following our pollinator efforts and is interested in assisting.

- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Keyes Hollow Wetland Assessment Review
 - ARM & Davis Conservation Foundation (DCF) updates; CRC and ARM meeting; affiliations, Concom funding option; Rob and Gregg provided an update on the actions being taken to apply for a Davis Foundation grant. We also reviewed the affiliations for each member. Lindley and Robin will provide their affiliations to Rob via email. **Gregg to solicit Jen for her affiliations.**
 - Motion was made to allocate \$1,500 from our Conservation Land Use Fund to the \$16-\$18K pending assessment. Davis stated that it's not required, but it is a very good faith gesture.
 - If needed, the Concom can also apply for a \$2500 Acworth Charitable Trust grant and a grant from the Clear Trust, both of which are local 501(c)3 organizations.
 - Crescent Lake
 - Watershed assessment update –Lake Smart certificates are in progress for 16 landowners; 55 property owners account for a majority of the annual nutrient (phosphorus) loading. Obtaining the Lake Smart certifications goes a long way toward mitigating any property nutrient loading. Some of the Crescent Lake Road, Cold Pond Road & North Shore/Hedgehog culverts are being addressed by Acworth and Unity Road crews. An opportunity exists starting in the town's right-of-way on Gove Road to a point 30-40' past the right-of-way to reduce nutrient loading from erosion. The Water Quality Group (WQG) will be leading a volunteer effort with some minimal town support to stabilize the banks and reduce the speed of the flow. A recommendation was made to advertise these efforts in the Eagle Times or Sentinel. **Gregg to follow up with the Water Quality Group.** Failing, inadequate, or underserved septic's are the next significant source of nutrients. The EPA has an excellent site that provides reasonable actions that can be taken by landowners, along with helpful brochures and literature. <https://www.epa.gov/septic/septicsmart>; Question was raised if NH DES has any rewards or incentive programs for homeowners. <https://www.des.nh.gov/land/septic-systems>
 - Land Survey update – The group completed the resolution of one of the 7 lot line adjustments or agreements that are required to complete the survey. Next week, the group (Kathi, Gregg, surveyor) will focus on the next large adjustment.

Communications, Training, and Outreach

- **Community Outreach**
 - Newsletter – next topics and next writer(s); draft due the 20th of the prior month
 - Mark Oct Black bear practices (due 9/20)
 - Gregg Nov Crescent Lake Watershed Assessment; work with WQG
 - Gregg Jan Endangered Species – with recommended changes
 - Robin Feb-Mar 2026 Invasive Species – introduction, Acworth specific examples, and a reference to our Conservation Plan – Invasives section.
 - Rob TBD Land Conservation Options
 - Other possible educational topics: climate change impacts

Communications, Training, and Outreach (continued)

- NHACC Fall Wetlands Training Program – 3 sessions, 2 Zoom, 1 hands-on: Sep 12, 19, 26th (**Lindley to attend**)
- NHACC Collaborative Land Management on a Large scale – 17 Sep Zoom
- Sharpen your Trails Skills with NHACC and AMC – 3 Oct 9:30-4 pm (**Gregg to attend**)
- Easement Monitoring Field Skills Workshop – Sep 26th, 12:30-4:30 pm Rumney, NH
- Volunteer Field Events - Keyes Hollow Nature Trail, Gove Road Stream Erosion Effort

Next Meeting – 8 Oct 2025 at 7 pm in the Town Hall.