

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes October 8, 2025

Attendance

- Present – Lindley Hanson (alt), Mark Girard (member), Janet Slocum (member), Kathi Bradt (select board), Chip Colello (volunteer), Gregg Thibodeau (member, co-chair)
- Not Present – Lisa Hyatt (alt), Robin Ungeheuer (alt), Rob Traver (member), Jennifer Bland (member, co-chair)

Review/approve minutes of September 10th, 2025, and 13 August.

- Minutes of Sep 10th were approved. Kathi motioned, Janet seconded; motion passed.
- Minutes of Aug 13th did not have a quorum present, therefore approval will be delayed until the November meeting. (present at the August meeting - Jennifer Bland, Kathi Bradt, Gregg Thibodeau, Rob Traver)

Public (if any) - none

Organizational

- **Funds/Budget**
 - Forest Maintenance Fund \$3,915.84 -> \$3,916.00; (+) \$0.16 interest
 - Conservation Land Use Fund \$16,319.99 -> \$16,320.64; (+) \$1.39 interest
 - Pending expense - \$209.22 LPSA Lab Testing Crescent Lake
 - Pending revenue – approximately \$5,000 in land use change tax (LUCT); Gregg to follow up with Charlotte.
- **By-Laws and Conservation Plan** – Roles and responsibilities in progress (GT). To be completed over the winter months.

Forestry and Conservation

- **Land Protection**
 - Intents to cut – a supplement to 25-001-10 was reviewed, which added 25 MBF in hardwoods and 800 tons of pulpwood. There were no additional concerns from Concom for this supplement.
 - Permits, complaints, and inquiries - none
 - South Acworth Forest Harvest (map 249, lot 9) – Mark G. is seeking another logger's opinion to help with our decision.
 - 2 loggers were contacted and received feedback that they were not interested in working with our forester.
 - We discussed an option to leverage our forester to mark the trees, and then Concom would negotiate the logging directly with the logging contractor. There were no objections to this approach. Mark agreed to follow up with the loggers to hopefully get their recommendations for the harvesting and skidding of the timber cut.
 - Land Conservation opportunities – no change; Sirkin Gove Road, Gates Mountain Road, and Hill Road properties.
 - Easement Monitoring – Discuss 2025 monitoring efforts (see attached)
 - Mark volunteered to tour groups 5, 6, and 7 on our monitoring worksheet. East Acworth Marsh/Keyes Hollow, Gove Road Forest, and the South Acworth Forest.
 - Gregg will send out a checklist that can be used during our monitoring efforts. Deeds and previous monitoring reports should be reviewed before the assessment tour.
 - It was mentioned that the Gove Road Town Forest is being used by a Crescent Lake resident, Stanley Kowalczyk, for a rifle range. Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF) is aware, as is the town's Select Board. Public use of the property is authorized, and rifle ranges are not prohibited; therefore, this use was not seen as a deed violation. However, during the 2021 annual SPNHF monitoring effort, it was noted that garbage from the ammunition was accumulating over time, and SPNHF instructed the Concom to contact Stan. See the 2021 annual report. Kathi is going to research the file for any other correspondence with Stan.
 - A new concern was raised regarding safety. Recreational use of the Gove Road Forest is authorized, and the rifle range is not properly posted. Recommendation was made that the Select Board notify Stan of the safety hazard and require that proper posting be made to prevent any accidental shooting of people or pets.
 - If anyone is interested in participating in a review, please contact the assigned monitor.

- **Water Protection** (Crescent Lake, Cold River, watersheds, wetlands, ponds, and perennial streams)
 - Keyes Hollow Wetland Assessment Review
 - Davis application update (RT)
 - Motion was made by Gregg to change the Concom Contribution Level from \$1500 to \$2,400. Motion was seconded and passed.
 - Crescent Lake
 - Watershed assessment update – property actions being taken are up to 18 properties, all of which are leveraging the NH Lakes Lake Smart certificate process. Town actions include culverts and ditches on North Shore (Unity), culverts and ditches on Cold Pond, and culverts and ditches on Crescent Lake Road. Work is also planned to improve erosion issues on a Gove Road culvert. Work is also being completed to identify a project manager. A meeting was conducted with the Crescent Lake Association Board and the Unity Select Board to improve engagement and support.
 - Land Survey update – next steps include meeting with 5 different sets of property owners to address boundary line adjustments or agreements.

Communications, Training, and Outreach

- **Community Outreach**
 - Newsletter – next topics and next writer(s); draft due the 20th of the prior month
 - Mark Nov Black bear practices (due 20 October)
 - Gregg Dec Endangered Species (due 20 November)
 - Rob TBD Land Conservation Options
 - Gregg TBD Crescent Lake Watershed Assessment
 - Other possible educational topics: climate change impacts. We received a recommendation for Fall Leaves and Flower Stalks (email sent on 6 Oct). The commission discussed this topic, and a very similar article was published in September 2024. By the time this article is published, the optimal time will have passed. We will save this article and consider it next year in the August/September timeframe.
 - A recommendation was made to consider topics for climate change and adaptive and resilience management for property owners.
 - NHACC Fall Wetlands Training Program – 3 separate sessions, 2 Zoom, 1 hands-on: Sep 12, 19, 26th (LH)
 - Lyndley attended this training and found it very informative.
 - Volunteer Field Events - Keyes Hollow Nature Trail; Gove Road Stream Erosion Effort

Other

- Class VI roads for recreation
 - A question was raised asking if there was any support to clear some areas on Class VI roads that are becoming impassable. The town is responsible for oversight and approval of what is accomplished on a Class VI road, but it is the responsibility of the landowners to maintain the road. A viable option would be for a resident to form a volunteer citizen action group with support from a landowner or the landowners on a given road and area. That group could propose trail-clearing efforts on the Class VI road for the Select Board to review.

Next Meeting – 12 Nov 2025 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 (member)
- Janet Slocum (member)
- Rob Traver (member)

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)

- Robin Ungeheuer (alternate)
- Lisa Hyatt (alternate)
- Lindley Hanson (alternate)

- Jennifer Griffin (volunteer)
- Terry Mattson (volunteer)
- Scott Travers (volunteer)
- Chip Colello (volunteer)
- David Heacock (volunteer)