

1 **Conservation Commission DRAFT MINUTES**

2 **September 11, 2025, 7:00PM**

3 **Meeting House**

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5 **Members Present:** Ken Stern (Chair), Kelly Short (Vice Chair), Audra Klumb, Lance Messinger
6 (Treasurer), Bob Steenson, Steve Seron, Theresa Wyman

7 **Members Absent:** Beth Blair (BOS Rep), Charlie Comey (Alternate)

8 **Others Present:** None

9 Meeting was called to Order at 7:00PM

10 Agenda items were taken out of order.

11 **Agenda Item 4. Property Management:**

- 12 a. Footbridge at Kimbal Pond Dam: The footbridge was constructed by Bob Steenson,
13 Lance Messinger, and Audra Klumb. The work was supervised by a large turtle that
14 observed from the pond. The cost of the materials for the footbridge, \$515.06, was
15 below the original estimate of \$650. Prior to the bridge construction, Lance trimmed
16 back all of the poison ivy that was growing on the north bank of the dam spillway.
17 Further suggested enhancement of the area included:
- 18 i. Bob suggested trimming along Kimball Pond Road to improve the view of
19 the pond from the road. It was determined that individuals could do trimming
20 on their own as time allowed.
 - 21 ii. Lance suggested signage at the road or dam entry along with a trail map. It
22 was agreed that this could be done at a later time, once trails have been
23 improved at the area.
- 24 b. RSFCA Mowing, Trail in the woods, Rock Removal
- 25 i. Mowing: Kelly spoke with Chris Aikins who provided a quote to mow the
26 entire field. The quoted price may end up being higher due to the taller shrubs
27 growing on the north end. The group discussed and determined this was
28 needed in order to keep the field open. This additional cost (mowing the
29 whole field instead of the ½ each year as we have been doing) will likely max
30 out our budget for the year, with the other mowing done at the Riverland.
 - 31 ii. Trail in the woods: Ken reported on a rogue trail that was discovered in the
32 woods at the north end of the RSFCA. The trail has been cleared of brush,
33 flagged with orange flagging, and blazed with yellow paint. The group
34 discussed who might have constructed the trail on Town land without the
35 Commission's knowledge. Lance offered to inquire with Dave Emmerson if
36 he might know the origin of the trail and Ken will follow-up with any leads.
 - 37 iii. Rock Removal: the rocks have been moved from the middle of the field to the
38 edge along the stone wall. The area has been smoothed and Ken seeded the
39 area. The seeds are beginning to germinate.
- 40 c. Briar Bush Road Town Forest: Kelly, Audra, Steve, and Ken walked the Town Forest
41 with County Forester Tim Fleury who provided an assessment of the forest. The

property includes some large white pines, some large red oak, an understory of American beech, several stone piles, stone walls, and other stone features. The back of the property abuts a large wetland. The assessment determined that the white pine might be of limited value due to its size, age, and likelihood of rot. The beech is showing signs of beech leaf disease. Conducting any harvest on the property may not provide much income due to the property size and tree condition. Ken suggested that we wait a few years to see what will happen with the beech leaf disease and maybe in the future plan a loop trail through the property with a few spaces for cars to park along the road. Kelly added that a forest management plan would be needed if we were to harvest the property. Consensus was to wait on moving forward with that at this time.

Agenda Item 5. By Laws Review:

Kelly provided an edited copy of the By Laws, which the title was revised to Operating Policies. The group discussed the changes to the Operating Policies and provided comments and edits. Kelly will incorporate the changes as well as reading through the RSA referenced in Section 12 so that the Operating Policies are consistent with the RSA. Ken made a motion to accept the changes to the Operating Policies and allow Kelly to make the changes to Section 12 to be consistent with the RSA; Steve seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion. Kelly will provide an amended and corrected version to the commission members and upload the final document to the Conservation Commission Document Library on the Town Website.

Agenda Item 3. Permits: none

Agenda Item 2. Rocky Pond Invasive control request, Clough Pond Lake Host:

Kelly reported that the Commission has received a letter from Rocky Pond Association requesting money to assist with the funding for the mitigation of milfoil in Rocky Pond. The group discussed the request. Steve made a motion to send \$1,000 to the Rocky Pond Association in response to their request, Audra seconded the motion.

During the discussion of the motion Ken provided the floor to Steve. Steve reported that he is on the Board of the Clough Pond Commission and that the Clough Pond Commission was not aware that he would be speaking at the Conservation Commission meeting. Clough pond is located at the southeast edge of the Canterbury Town Line with Loudon. Steve discussed the wildlife that uses the pond and that it is a cold-water fishery according to the NH Fish and Game (NHFG). The pond is currently free of non-native invasives. The NHFG has a boat launch at the pond, located in Loudon. Each summer a Lake Host monitors the access to the lake by boaters and fishermen to gain voluntary cooperation to prevent invasives species from entering the pond. Loudon provides money to support the Lake Hosts annually. Steve requested that we discuss providing funds next year when we discuss the budget. Bob suggested adding money to next year's budget to provide support to the Lake Host. The members of the commission agreed.

With the discussion ended, the commission members voted unanimously to approve the motion to contribute to milfoil eradication at Rocky Pond.

Agenda Item 6. Canterbury Boards Code of Conduct meeting: Ken reported that he attended and that we are following the Code with our conduct.

85 **Agenda Item 8. Conservation Projects – Review Workshop with Five Rivers:**

86 The group discussed potential conservation projects following the meeting that we had with Five
87 Rivers.

88 **Agenda Item 9. Other Business – Wetlands:**

89 The planning Board is interested in considering a Wetlands Ordinance. Kelly suggested to the
90 Planning Board that a sub-committee be formed to identify key issues and potentially aid in
91 drafting the ordinance language and then provide it to the Planning Board. Kelly recommended
92 Bob and Audra in addition to herself, Brendan O'Donnell (Planning Board Chair), and Megan
93 Portnoy (Planning Board Member). Bob and Audra agreed to be on the subcommittee.
94 Subcommittee meetings will be scheduled.

95 Additional Other Business:

- 96 a. Kelly reported that the Conservation Commission received a letter from Five Rivers
97 thanking us for our annual contribution in recognition of Fiver Rivers' support for
98 conservation projects in Canterbury.
- 99 b. Ken reported that the State has passed a law requiring towns to allow development on
100 Class VI roads with a waiver. More research is needed as to how this would impact
101 Canterbury.

102 **Agenda Item 7. 2026 Work Plan and Budget:**

103 The work plan and budget for 2026 were discussed. Suggestions were made to increase the
104 budget amount for land maintenance and property management as well as increase the amount of
105 money for water protection. Other projects that would need money included signs at the
106 Riverland. The amount of money needed for easement stewardship will be determined by
107 requesting an estimate from the easement monitors. Ken suggested that Kimball Pond should be
108 evaluated for invasives and/or water quality. Ken will call NH DES to inquire about what is
109 needed for such pond studies.

110 **Additional Other Business:** Kelly reminded the group that NHACC is offering a workshop on
111 Friday September 12th on Wetlands and suggested that members attend the two online sessions
112 and then field day workshop if they are available.

113 **Agenda Item 1. Minutes:** Steve motioned to accept the minutes from the August 14, 2025
114 meeting, Lance seconded the motion. The group suggested changes. All voted in favor of
115 accepting the minutes except for Teresa who abstained from the vote as she was not in
116 attendance at the meeting.

117 The Conservation Commission meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

118 The next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2025.

119 Respectfully Submitted,

120 Audra Klumb