

1 **Conservation Commission Meeting**

2 **January 8, 2026, 7:00PM**

3 **Meeting House**

4
5 **Members Present:** Kelly Short (Vice Chair), Audra Klumb, Steve Seron, Charlie Comey
6 (Alternate), Beth Blair (BOS Rep),

7 **Members Present via Zoom:** Ken Stern (Chair),

8 **Members Absent:** Lance Messinger (Treasurer), Bob Steenson, Theresa Wyman,

9 Meeting was called to Order at 7:00PM

10 Charlie was declared a voting member for this meeting.

11 **1. Minutes**

12 a. **Minutes from December 11, 2025:** The draft minutes were presented for review. Steve
13 motioned to accept the minutes from the December 11, 2025 meeting, Audra seconded the
14 motion. The motion carried.

15 b. **Minutes from December 14, 2025:** The draft minutes from the December 14, 2025 R.S.
16 Fife Conservation Area Site Walk were presented for review. Steve motioned to accept the
17 minutes from the December 14, 2025 site walk, Audra seconded the motion. The motion
18 carried.

19 **2. Permits** - None were received

20 **3. Appointment for Upper Merrimack River LAC:** Audra volunteered to be appointed to the
21 UMLAC. Steve motioned to recommend Audra for appointment to the UMLAC, Charlie
22 seconded the motion. All voted in favor, Audra abstained.

23 **4. Property Management:**

24 a. **Discussion of December 14 site walk at RSFCA:** The commission discussed the
25 previous review of the property by Matt Tar and confirmed the decision at the site walk to
26 remove some of the apple trees in the field to allow for better mowing and management of
27 the invasive species. Additionally, some of the maple trees in the wetland will be removed

28 to allow for a shrubby habitat. May 1 has been established as a work party day to
29 trim/remove invasive species. A question was raised as to who does the cleanout of the
30 bluebird boxes, and when does that occur. Kelly will reach out to Bob Fife to determine
31 the current management of the bluebird boxes.

32 b. **Kinter's Garden:** The commission discussed the need to revisit the garden in the early
33 spring and flag the shrubs to be removed. The invasive burning bushes will need to be
34 removed. Mechanical removal may be necessary, but care will be needed during removal
35 for the plants located along the stone wall. Potential parking will also need to be reviewed
36 during the site visit.

37 **5. Conservation Outreach Updates:** The commission discussed potential conservation projects

38 **6. New Member Recruitment:** The commission discussed potential new members. Current
39 members whose terms expire in 2026 include Kelly, Lance, and Bob.

40 **7. Planning Board Warrants:**

41 a. **Proposed Wetland Ordinance:** The vernal pool setback was observed to be the same as
42 the wetland setback, placing no value on a vernal pool. Audra will draft a comment to the
43 Planning Board supporting a separate vernal pool setback to show their value/importance.

44 b. **Cluster Subdivision elimination:** The commission discussed the potential elimination of
45 the cluster subdivision regulation.

46 **8. 2025 Budget Update:** Kelly provided updates on how our overall spending related to the
47 budgeted spending, which was within \$500 of the proposed budget amount.

48 **9. Legislation Update:**

49 a. HB639 – has been sent to committee

50 b. SB592 – supported by NHACC, the group decided that individuals can choose to support
51 the bill and did not provide a commission determination on support.

52 **10. New Pond DES Total maximum Daily Load Study Report:** Kelly will follow up with DES
53 for more information.

54

55 **11. Other Business:**

56 a. Ken reported that the new NH Fish and Game Wildlife Action Plan is now available. We
57 use the results in our scoring for ranking potential conservation projects. Ken will call NH
58 FG for an update as to how this plan is different than the previous plan. The Regional
59 Planning Commission could update our maps with the new data.

60 b. The Annual Report is due in 12 days. Kelly will write and submit the report.

61 The Conservation Commission meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

62 Respectfully Submitted,

63 Audra Klumb