

1 **MINUTES Conservation Commission Meeting**

2 **May 14, 2026, 7:00PM**

3 **Meeting House**

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

7 **Members Absent:** Ken Stern, Charlie Comey (Alternate)

8 **Visitor:** Michael Capone

9 Meeting was called to Order at 7:00PM

10 The Commission welcomed Michael Capone to the meeting. Michael expressed an interest in
11 joining the Conservation Commission as an Alternate Member. Bob motioned to appoint Michael
12 Capone as a Conservation Commission Alternate. Steve Seconded the motion. All voted in favor
13 of accepting Michael Copone as an Alternate Commission member. Kelly will submit the
14 recommendation to the Board of Selectmen for appointment.

15 **1. Minutes from April 9, 2026** The draft minutes were presented for review. Bob motioned to
16 accept the minutes from the April 9th meeting, Lance seconded the motion. A minor
17 typographical change was requested. All voted in favor of the revised minutes.

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

19 **3. Right to Know Training:** Reminder that all are required to attend the Right to Know Training
20 on May 19, 2026, 6:30pm

21 **4. Report on Land Boards Meeting** Kelly attended the recent meeting and reported the
22 following:

23 a. SB 564 was discussed

24 b. Kelly shared with the group that Conservation Commission was in the process of
25 updating the co-occurrence maps

c. The cluster subdivision ordinance was discussed. The Planning Board indicated that they were open to board/commission input for the ordinance language. Folks should review the PB minutes or attend their meetings to keep up to date.

d. Kelly pointed out the clerical error in the Wetlands Ordinance regarding the vernal pool size and that the Conservation Commission will provide revised language.

5. Trust for CE Monitoring: The Commission discussed potential options for a Trust to cover the costs for Conservation Easement Monitoring.

6. Specific change recommendation re vernal pools in the wetlands ordinance: The Commission discussed the current approved wetlands ordinance compared to the suggested ordinance provided by the Wetlands Subcommittee. The Commission suggests the same language that was originally proposed and that the size requirement for the vernal pool setback should be removed. Therefore, Section 5.2.D.3 of the ordinance would then read as follows:

Setback: No new structures may be erected within 25 feet of, and no land disturbing activity may be conducted within 15 feet of: (i) wetlands that are larger than 2,000 square feet; (ii) vernal pools ~~that are larger than 2,000 square feet;~~ or (iii) surface waters. The setback distance is measured from the edge of the wetland, vernal pool, or surface water to the edge of soil disturbance or foundation of structure.

7. Follow up: Discussion with town staff about wetlands ordinance enforcement: Bob and Audra are scheduled to meet with Joel to discuss the wetlands ordinance on Friday.

8. Knotweed at the Transfer Station. Possible educational event?: The Commission discussed the knotweed situation at the Transfer Station and options for eradication. Discussion included a possible public information session on knotweed, discussion of what other towns and organizations have present to the public, and their work on knotweed management. Kelly will suggest the knotweed project/education to the Master Gardners at the Farmer's Market.

9. Update – Conservation projects Outreach: The Commission discussed potential conservation projects.

10. Update – Co-occurrence map update in process: Kelly reported that updates to the co-occurrence map is still in process.

11. Report on UMLAC meeting: Audra reported on the recent UMLAC meeting. The members toured the Franklin Wastewater Treatment Facility, which was interesting and informative. They also reviewed an Alteration of Terrain permit for a project in Concord.

12. Concord Conservation Commission members to attend June meeting: Members of the Concord Conservation Commission will attend the June meeting to discuss conservation actions and forestry updates.

13. Discuss SB 564: SB 564 proposes changes to the limits of dead-end roads for development. Bob will review the language of the Bill.

14. Next work party at RSFCA -remove brush piles; cut bittersweet from apples; thin trees to ease mowing: Work party scheduled for 6/14 at 10am.

15. Blue bird boxes. Repair? Annual cleaning. Storage before mowing: Beth will reach out to Ted regarding new bluebird boxes made by the 4-H group. Kelly indicated that Ruth Smith would be willing to clean them out in the spring prior to nesting season. Beth offered to house the boxes in her barn during the winter if they are removed for mowing.

16. Other Business:

- a. Lakes Region Congress is June 5th at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord, more information is here: <https://nhlakes.org/lakes-congress/>
- b. There will be a CPR clinic at the Fire Department on Tuesday 5/19 11am to 12pm, sign up is limited.
- c. Trail revisions to the Kimball Pond trail will be completed during the RSFCA work party on 6/14.

The Conservation Commission meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Audra Klumb