

Canterbury Conservation Commission

April 9, 2026 DRAFT MINUTES

Meeting House

Members Present: Kelly Short (Chairperson), Bob Steenson, Audra Klumb, Steve Seron, Lance Messinger, Charlie Comey (alternate) and Beth Blair (BOS Rep).

Members Absent: Ken Stern, Theresa Wyman

Kelly chaired the meeting and it was called to order at 7:02 PM.

1. **Minutes:** Kelly requested approval of the March Minutes. The Motion to accept the minutes was made by Bob Steenson and seconded by Audra Klumb. A few minor corrections were made and the minutes were approved unanimously.
2. **Permits:** No permits at this time
3. **Right to Know Training:** Kelly reminded everyone that they need to attend this training on May 19 at 6:30 PM. New items will be discussed at the beginning of the meeting, so that those members who attended earlier training would be allowed to leave the training if desired.
4. **Land Board Meeting:** Kelly reported that she will plan to attend this meeting with other Canterbury committees and commissions on April 23 at 7:00 PM. There will also be another Board Meeting on September 15 and the purpose of these meetings is to coordinate information and ideas by various groups to coordinate services and outcome.
5. **Specific Change Recommendations about Vernal Pools in Wetland Ordinance:** Members agreed that there need to be changes made to protect vernal pools that are generally smaller than 2000 square feet in size. Kelly will request that the Wetlands subcommittee modify and exempt vernal pools from the previously designated size requirement.
6. **Discussion with town staff about Wetlands Ordinance Enforcement :** Bob Steenson and Audra Klumb will meet with. Town staff to discuss wetlands ordinance enforcement.
7. **Surface Waters (Federal Rule Changes):** There was some discussion about how new federal regulations from the EPA might impact rules related to surface waters. Audra believes that the new rules will not have any impact in New Hampshire.
8. **Conservation Projects Outreach (Update):** The Abberton property that was previously on the market last year and the owners are now considering subdividing the 188 Acres into three (3) separate parcels. The owners recently met with the Planning Board and Kelly shared with the them that the Conservation Commission might be interested in helping them conserve some of the land adjacent to town-owned Peverly Meadows if that is of interest to them.

33 **9. Review Updated Co-Occurrence Map:** Commission members gathered around the new map that
34 was provided by the Central NH Regional Planning Board that creates a visual representation for
35 conservation planning, natural resource inventory and land-use management with weighted
36 data and designated conservation properties. There was some discussion about color changes
37 and difficulty reading some town road names. Kelly will request some revisions from CNHRPC.

38 **10. Discuss NH SB 564:** A new bill was introduced and approved by committee that would prohibit
39 municipalities from placing limits of maximum road length and imposing a numerical cap on the
40 number of housing lots on a dead end street. It would also permit municipalities to place
41 utilities within open spacer perimeter buffer areas of subdivision. Members were concerned
42 about some of the elements of this bill related to environmental protections and fire codes. Bob
43 Steenson agreed to contact State Senator Howard Pearl to discuss the CCC's concerns.

44 **11. Work Party at RSFCA:** Members agreed to meet at the Robert S Fife Conservation Area on May
45 1, 2026, at 9 am to remove brush, trim trees and explore removal of invasive from the new
46 Kinter conservation parcel. Brush will be placed alongside the stone wall by Kimball Pond Road.

47 **12. Trust for CE Monitoring:** Kelly reported that she has not yet pursued this issue and will report
48 back to the CCC in the future.

49 **13. Other Business:** Steve Seron reported that he received a phone call from Robert Fife, who was
50 concerned about the bird houses on the RSFCA. Steve reported that they are in some disrepair
51 and that there are currently four (4) birdhouses that need repair or replacement. Beth reported
52 that the 4H Club recently built several birdhouses with Ted West and that she will contact them
53 to see if they would be willing to replace the birdhouses at RSFCA.

54 Audra also reported that she responded to a survey about wetland protection from the UNH
55 Property Extension and NH Fish & Game about Vernal Pool Ordinances for Canterbury.

56 Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

57 Respectfully submitted by Lance Messinger