



Canterbury Conservation Commission

Minutes of July 9, 2026 Meeting

Held at the Meeting House, 7:00 pm

Members Present: Kelly Short (Chairperson), Audra Klumb, Bob Steenson, Steve Seron, Lance Messenger, Steve Seron, Teresa Wyman, Ken Stern, Beth Blair (BOS Rep)

Members Absent: Charlie Comey (alternate) Michael Capone (alternate)

Guest(s): none

Meeting called to Order 7:04pm.

Agenda Item 1. Review and approve minutes of June 11, 2026 meeting.

Motion to accept the minutes of June 11, 2026 by Audra. Second by Steve. No discussion, no corrections. All in favor of the minutes as drafted.

Agenda Item 2: Permits

No permit applications received.

Agenda Item 3. Reminder Right to Know Training follow-up.

Kelly reminded those not in attendance at the RTK training session to review the video.

Agenda Item 4: Map Updates

Kelly has submitted the updates to the co-occurrence and basic resource maps discussed in previous meetings to the Central NH Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC). Kelly reported that CNHRPC has had some staff changes and the map updates are still in review.

Agenda Item 5: Knotweed

General discussion of Knotweed control methods and status. Kelly reported cutting Knotweed patches on Abbott Road within the town right of way. Bob cut some of the Knotweed on Kimball Pond Road within the DOT right of way.

Agenda Item 6: R.S. Fife Conservation Area Management Plan

The CCC reviewed the management plan goals and objectives, specifically the goal to control invasive species versus the goal to preserve early successional habitat by limiting mowing. Last year we mowed the entire field due to the rampant growth of oriental bittersweet, buckthorn and other invasives. It was noted that the bittersweet is again growing very aggressively and the CCC discussed an early season mowing before the plants go to seed.

Ken relayed his experience with mechanical and chemical control of bittersweet on his property on Baptist Hill Road.

Kelly reported on her conversation with Steve Roberge of the UNH Cooperative Extension about the RS Fife area and best practices for bittersweet control. Mr. Roberge indicated that early season mowing is the right thing to do and further noted that effective control requires frequent mowing - as often as 5

times a year. UNH Cooperative Extension staff have offered to visit Canterbury to inspect and make recommendations. A date has not yet been set.

Bob made a motion to perform a mid-season mowing of the field; seconded by Steve. During discussion Ken expressed concern about the budget impact and long-term efficacy noting that we must also preserve funds for mowing the Riverland. Vote: Kelly, Lance, Audra, Steve, Bob and Teresa in favor. Ken abstained. Kelly will contract Chris Aiken.

The CCC discussed mechanical, chemical and thermal control options offered by Forest Savers, LLC of Woodstock, Vermont. The company works throughout NH and Vermont and appears to offer a unique combination of services not available elsewhere. They offer free estimates and Kelly will contact them to request proposals for the R.S. Fife Conservation Area and the adjacent Kinter Garden. Bob will contact Lakes Region Conservation Trust and Durham NH Conservation Commission for information on Forest Savers projects at Sewall's Woods and Oyster River Forest respectively.

Agenda Item 7: Upcoming Meetings

The August 13 meeting is cancelled as most members are not available.

The Concord Conservation Commission is expected to attend the September 10 meeting.

Agenda Item 8: Other Business

NH DES is hosting a webinar on July 15 at 12:00pm to present updates to the wetland permitting process. All members received an email with registration information and the meeting link. Kelly and Bob have registered.

Kelly submitted a formal request to the Planning Board to amend the recently passed Wetlands Setback Ordinance to correct the clerical error on the size of vernal pools. The Planning Board was receptive and indicated they will include in the annual zoning update process.

Audra reported on the recent Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee (UMRLAC) meeting and noted that the next meeting will be held in Canterbury at the Parish House on Monday July 13.

LCHIP easement monitors have reported a potential easement violation at the Booth Riverland. They noted that a landowner has done some clearing and minor land disturbance that extends over the boundary of the easement. The CCC will contact the property owner.

Agenda Item 9: Conservation Projects

The CCC discussed landowner outreach for potential projects.

The CCC discussed a 64 acre parcel of land on Misery Road, Tax Map 225, Lot 3, that the landowner wishes to donate to the Town. The land has conservation value and Kelly will notify Town Administrator Ken Folsom that the CCC is interested and would like to schedule a due diligence tour of the property.

Meeting Adjourned 8:41 pm