



Canterbury Conservation Commission

Minutes of September 10, 2026 Meeting (Final)

Held at the Meeting House, 7:00 pm

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

Members Absent: Michael Capone (alternate)

Guest(s): Kristine Tardiff, Mark Coen, Frederick Chormann – Concord Conservation Commission; Kearsten O'Brien, Senior Planner City of Concord

Meeting called to Order 7:00pm.

Agenda Item 1. Discussion with Concord Conservation Commission.

Wide ranging discussion of shared priorities and challenges. Ms. Tardiff presented highlights of the Concord Conservation Commission's meetings with CCs in surrounding towns of Bow, Boscawen, Loudon and Pembroke. Trail connectivity is a shared objective and invasive species control is a common challenge. The Concord CC members discussed their forthcoming updates to Concord's Master Plan and described the work of the Concord Trail Committee and the role of their part-time Trail Ranger.

Kelly shared the top line objectives from the Natural Resource section of Canterbury's Master Plan. Members discussed the acquisition and management of conservation easements, invasive species control efforts, wetlands setbacks and cluster subdivision zoning provisions.

Agenda Item 2: Review and Approve Minutes of the July 9 meeting. (August meeting was cancelled.)

Motion to accept the minutes of July 9, 2026 by Ken. Second by Audra. No discussion, no corrections. All in favor of the minutes as drafted.

Agenda Item 3. Permits

Received one 'permit by notification - forestry'. No action required.

Going forward, Kelly will copy Audra when notifications are received.

Agenda Item 4: Updates

- a. Monitoring follow up with Whelan: As a reminder, the State of NH easement monitors flagged a potential easement violation on the Whelan property adjacent to the Riverland conservation area. The homeowners were making a parking space for an RV. Kelly and Pete Helm, one of the town's contracted easement monitors, visited the property and met with the homeowner. They determined there was a very small area of disturbance, barely inside the easement boundary. They

48 urged the homeowner to select a parking spot outside the easement. Kelly will advise the state
49 that there are no problems at this time. During the visit the homeowner inquired about improving
50 her access trail to the river. Kelly and Pete advised her to consult with DES as permits may be
51 required.

- 52 b. Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee: no updates.
- 53 c. Farmer's Market – CCC provided information about invasive species to market attendees, speaking
54 directly with 18 individuals. Minimal interest among market attendees indicates this is not an
55 effective venue for disseminating information.
- 56 d. Updated Maps from Central NH Regional Planning Commission - The new maps are complete.
57 Kelly will put .pdfs in the Dropbox for members to download.
- 58 e. Land Boards Meeting 9/15: The town has called a joint meeting of all town land use boards on the
59 Sept 15th. Kelly and Bob will attend on behalf of the CCC.

61 **Agenda Item 5: 2027 Budget Priorities**

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63 General discussion of budget needs for 2027 including easement monitoring, maintenance mowing,
64 invasive species control measures.

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66 Steve explained the role of the Clough Pond Lake Hosts in the testing and monitoring of the water in
67 Clough Pond. The board discussed a donation to the Clough Pond Association which is also supported by
68 the Loudon Conservation Commission, Brookside Pizza and Trout Unlimited among others. Preventing
69 dissemination of invasive species (the purpose of the NH Lake Host program) is less costly than
70 remediation after invasives have taken root.

71
72 Motion by Steve to allocate \$250 in the 2027 budget for a donation to the Clough Pond Association for
73 the purpose of supporting the Lake Host program. Seconded by Ken. All in favor.

74 **Agenda Item 6: R.S. Fife Conservation Area Maintenance**

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76 Building on discussion from the July meeting about revising the management plan to introduce additional
77 invasive control measures, Kelly reported on the site walk conducted with resource professionals from
78 UNH Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service, NH Fish & Game, and the Forest Society. Notes
79 from that site walk are separately posted with documents for the September meeting.

80
81 The main takeaway from the site review is that oriental bittersweet and other invasives are a forever
82 problem that will require careful management if the field is to be preserved. The resource professional
83 suggested testing multiple approaches tailored to the specific conditions in each quadrant of the field.

84
85 Ken noted that a field without invasives will require a lot of effort and will cost a lot of money, forever. His
86 conclusion is that this would not be a wise use of resources. With annual mowing and periodic
maintenance efforts it will still remain a field, albeit with invasive plants present.

87
88 The CCC talked through other potential options such as grazing, mechanical, chemical and thermal
89 removal. Bob and Kelly will contact Forest Savers, LLC to request quotes for the Kinter Garden and the
90 main field. Kelly will reach out to Ken Folsom to see if the Town has interest in getting quotes for treatment
of invasives at the Transfer Station and other town properties and ROWs.

The CCC scheduled a work day at the RSFCA on Sunday October 25 at 9:30am. Kelly will post notice in advance.

Agenda Item 7: Possible Land Donations

A due diligence walk through of the Crowley property, Tax Map 225, Lot 3, located on Misery Road is scheduled for September 12th. Kelly, Audra and Bob will attend.

Ken brought to the CCCs attention that the current owner of Tax Map 265, Lots 1 and 9, 23.1 acres combined, also known as the Karl Thunberg property, would like to donate the land to either the Town or a responsible conservation organization. The property is already under a conservation easement held by the Town of Canterbury.

Due diligence walk-thru is scheduled on September 29th at 10:00am

Agenda Item 8: Conservation Projects

The CCC reviewed ongoing landowner outreach and discussions with the Forest Society about potential projects.

Agenda Item 9: Other Business

Bob will circulate a draft 2027 budget by the end of the month.

The next meeting will be October 8.

Meeting Adjourned 9:37 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Steenson, Acting Secretary