



TOWN OF HUDSON

Conservation Commission



Carl Murphy, Vice Chairman

Dave Morin, Selectmen Liaison

12 School Street • Hudson, New Hampshire 03051 • Tel: 603-886-6008 • Fax: 603-816-1291

DATE: November 10, 2025

MEETING MINUTES: Below is a listing of minutes for the Hudson Conservation Commission. Minutes are not a verbatim record of each meeting, but rather represent a summary of the discussion and actions taken at the meeting. All Conservation Commission meetings are televised live and repeated during the following week on HCTV, cable television channel 22. Official copies of the minutes are available to read and copy at the Town Engineer's Office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.).

Should you have any questions concerning these minutes or wish to see the original recording, please contact the Town Engineer's Office at 603-886-6008.

In attendance = X Alternates Seated = S Partial Attendance = P Excused Absence = E

Carl Murphy
Chairman X

Ken Dickinson
Vice-Chair X

Christopher Cameron
Clerk X

John Walter
Member X

Kathy Griswold
Member X

Linda Krisciunas
Alternate E

David Morin
Selectman Liaison E

Don Kirkland
Engineer X

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON AT

7:03 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Griswold

ROLL CALL

Mr. Cameron

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

None

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

7:04 P.M. - None

I. New Business

a. Planning Board Updates – Ben Witham-Gradert

Mr. Witham-Gradert, Associate Town Planner, provided a brief overview of the role of the Conservation Commission in relation to the Select Board and Planning Board. The Zoning Ordinance Review Committee (ZORC) and related process was summarized. He then presented a proposed change to the review process for Minor Site Plan applications which simplifies the

process for homeowners to apply for a Conditional Use Permit for minor (less than 300 square-feet for permanent impacts or 500 square-feet for permanent plus temporary impacts) encroachment into wetland buffers. These Conditional Use Permits would still go through the normal review process with the Conservation Commission and would then go to the Minor Site Plan Review Committee for review with a recommendation from the Commission, rather than to the full Planning Board. Discussions took place on the logistics of the process and potential scenarios. The concern was raised that the Conservation Commission was not involved by the Planning Board in the development of this new process by which they are directly affected.

b. Conditional Use Permit Application – 1 Bockes Road, Map 145, Lot 001-000

Chris York, Project Engineer with Greenman Pedersen, Inc. (GPI), the applicant's representative, presented the Site Plan and Conditional Use Permit application for proposed permanent wetland buffer impacts of ____ square-feet. It was noted that this site plan was originally presented to the Town approximately fifteen (15) years ago and has since been updated to shift the proposed development as far west on the site as possible so as to reduce impacts to the wetland buffer, which was increased from fifty (50) to seventy-five (75) feet for non-residential use since the previous application.

Concerns were raised about the loss of wooded buffer from residential properties, material stockpile adjacent to the wetland buffer, and snow storage proposed adjacent to the wetland buffer where runoff would likely flow directly into the wetland due to the site topography. It was suggested that the disturbed areas shown as "loam and seed" on the plans be instead returned to natural/native groundcover, plants, and trees. It was particularly noted that natural vegetation and groundcover should be used for disturbed areas within and adjacent to the wetland buffer and that additional shrubs should be added in this area. A site walk was scheduled for Saturday 11/22/2025 at 8am on-site, with suggested parking on nearby Rolling Woods Drive.

II. Old Business

a. Senior Capstone Project

Zoe Burt, a senior at Alvirne High School, decided to return to her original plan of roadside cleanup. She and several of her fellow students cleaned up and carried out several bags of trash along the southern/central part of Derry Road and the surrounding vicinity on Saturday 11/8/2025.

b. Hudson Trail Challenge – Patch Design Contest

Ms. Griswold and Mr. Walter presented an application sheet where students can draw their proposed patch design and submit it for consideration. Discussion took place and it was generally agreed that the top four (4) submittals would be recognized with prizes and the top submittal would be selected for the patch design, with the next highest ranked submittal being a

back-up in case there were any issues incorporating the design into a patch. It was decided that the prizes would be Dunkin' gift cards in the amounts of \$25, \$20, \$15, and \$10 for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place, respectively. Ms. Griswold indicated she would get price quotes for two (2) and three (3) color options from patch printing companies to help determine guidelines. Contest submittals will be due by 1/31/2026. Flyers will be posted in the local schools and distributed through local scout troops.

Motion: Ms. Griswold made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walter, to expend \$70 for the prizes for the patch design contest. The motion carried 5/0/0.

III. Other Business

a. Senior Center Presentation 10/21

Mr. Walter and Mr. Cameron provided a re-cap of the recent presentation given at the Hudson Senior Center. There were approximately fifteen (15) people in attendance and there was interest in the trails at Pelham Road and Tiger Road properties. Mr. Walter explained some of the history of the area and native American folklore.

b. First-Aid Kit

Ms. Griswold to reach out to the Hudson Fire Department about their recommended kit.

c. First-Aid Training

Ms. Griswold to reach out to the Hudson Fire Department about scheduling training. There was general interest from the members in First-Aid training and in chainsaw safety training.

d. Trail Work Day – November

The next work day is scheduled for 9:30 am on Sat 11/22 at the Musquash Rd trailhead for the Musquash Conservation Area in Hudson. Work will take place on the Musquash Conservation Area and will primarily include clearing fallen trees.

IV. Financial Status

Conservation Commission Operating Budget, available balance = \$46,451.80 (as of 11/3/2025, FY 2026).

Conservation Fund balance = \$816,131.04 (as of November 2025, FY2026).

V. Correspondence

None

VI. Approval of Minutes

Discussion: Correction under III. d. Forester evaluation. Mr. Murphy to provide more notes from that site walk to be incorporated into the minutes.

Motion: Mr. Walter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Griswold, to accept the October 2025 regular meeting minutes with proposed revisions. The motion carried 5/0/0.

VII. Commissioners' Comments

a. NHACC Conference

Mr. Walter provided a re-cap of the recent NH Association of Conservation Commissions annual meeting and conference. He attended trainings on fungi identification and old-growth forest. Ms. Griswold also attended and provided a re-cap of training sessions on wetland identification/protection and public outreach. Mr. Cameron attended training sessions on conservation commission fundamentals, natural resource inventory (NRI), and invasive species identification/management. Mr. Dickinson mentioned that the conference sessions tend to repeat from year-to-year so members can attend sessions they were not able to attend in previous years.

b. Proposed Bridge: Musquash-Gumpas Connector

A brief discussion was had of recent findings for a viable route through Hudson conservation land to connect the Musquash and Gumpas Pond conservation areas.

Motion: Mr. Walter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cameron, to expend funds for the purchase of sawn lumber for bog bridge (puncheon) span planks, in the amount not to exceed \$1,000. There was discussion on the timing of the delivery, delivery location, storage location, and the timing of the work. It was generally agreed that starting the work as soon as possible would be preferable. The motion carried 5/0/0.

c. Landscape Scale Community Land Management Initiative

Mr. Cameron presented an opportunity to apply for a program, promoted by the NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC), for public outreach by showcasing success in conservation on a local conservation property. Ms. Griswold suggested the Musquash Conservation Area as an ideal candidate given the extensive trail network and future expansion thereof through the planned trail connection to the Gumpas Pond trail system in Pelham. Mr. Walter, Mr. Dickinson, and Mr. Murphy indicated agreement and interest in the program. Mr. Cameron indicated willingness to submit the application and serve as the point-person, unless someone else wanted to take on that role. Ms. Griswold offered to help promote the program.

Motion: Mr. Walter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Griswold, to submit an application for this program. The motion carried 5/0/0.

d. Warrant Articles

Mr. Cameron inquired as to the process of submitting warrant articles for town ballot that are not related to zoning ordinances and therefore do not go through the Zoning Ordinance Review Committee (ZORC). Mr. Kirkland provided the guidance for submitting a petition warrant article and it was unclear if this was the process or if warrant articles from the Conservation Commission that are not related to zoning ordinances can go directly to the Select Board. Further clarification will be sought from Town staff. Mr. Murphy indicated that he had gotten feedback from the Town Administrator that proposed warrant articles for Select Board consideration need to be submitted soon. It was generally agreed to hold a workshop to discuss potential warrant articles, including a proposal for a Capital Reserve Fund for conservation land purchase.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion:

Mr. Walter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Griswold, to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 pm.

The motion carried 5/0/0 and the meeting adjourned.

****Next Regular Meeting: Monday, December 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Cameron", written in a cursive style.

Christopher Cameron, Clerk