



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: January 12, 2026

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

David Morin
Selectman Liaison X

Don Kirkland
Engineer E

CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON AT

7:01 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Dickinson

ROLL CALL

Mr. Cameron

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

None

PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

7:03 P.M. – None

I. New Business

a. Officer Election (Annual)

Chairman, Carl Murphy, shall address the need to elect new officers for reorganization of the Board, and shall first ask for a nomination for the position of Chairman.

MOTIONS FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

MOTION FOR CHAIRMAN:

I move to nominate Mr. Murphy to be Chairman.

Motion by: Ms. Griswold Second: Mr. Walter.

If there are no other nominations for this office, the next motion is:

MOTION:

There being no other nominations, I move to close the nominations and to elect

Mr. Murphy as Chairman by acclamation.

Motion by: Ms. Griswold Second: Mr. Walter Motion carried/failed:
Carried, 5/0/0.

MOTION FOR VICE-CHAIRMAN:

I move to nominate Mr. Dickinson to be Vice-Chairman.

Motion by: Mr. Walter Second: Ms. Griswold.

If there are no other nominations for this office, the next motion is:

MOTION:

There being no other nominations, I move to close the nominations and to elect

Mr. Dickinson as Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Motion by: Mr. Walter Second: Ms. Griswold Motion carried/failed:
Carried, 5/0/0.

MOTION FOR SECRETARY/CLERK:

I move to nominate Mr. Cameron to be Secretary.

Motion by: Ms. Griswold Second: Mr. Walter.

If there are no other nominations for this office, the next motion is:

MOTION:

There being no other nominations, I move to close the nominations and to elect

Mr. Cameron as Secretary/Clerk by acclamation.

**Motion by: Ms. Griswold Second: Mr. Walter Motion carried/failed:
Carried, 5/0/0.**

II. Old Business

a. Work Plan (Annual)

Continuing the discussion from the previous meeting, Chairman Murphy again suggested the idea of a planning out work and meetings for the upcoming year, including potential workshops as needed. Mr. Dickinson expressed the need for more experienced members to assist others with education and mentoring on Commission responsibilities. He also suggested the need to prioritize objectives for the coming year. Suggested topics of focus/work items for 2026:

- i. Colburn-Musquash Trail Connection: Mr. Dickinson mentioned that he would like to see the task re-prioritized of a potential trail connection between the Colburn Town Forest and Musquash Conservation Area. Likely a relatively-simple undertaking, involving a letter to the affected property owner and, if permission obtained, marking of existing trail(s) through the affected property.
- ii. Workshops: Discussion then took place on potential workshops and the need to prioritize topics for those. Topics of focus for workshops were generally agreed to be the Open Space Plan, Zoning Ordinance Review Committee (ZORC) proposals, and the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI). Mr. Cameron suggested that the NRI could potentially be created as a dynamic map by adding the necessary natural resource map layers to the town GIS map, thus saving work and potentially eliminating the need for a workshop on this topic – Mr. Murphy to reach out to the Town Engineer about this. It was generally agreed that the ZORC discussions could take place later in the year (possibly June – Mr. Murphy to reach out to the Planning Board to get a schedule for the ZORC meetings) and that updating the Open Space Plan was a priority. Members agreed to hold the first **workshop**, focused on updating the Open Space Plan, on **Mon, Feb. 2, 2026 at 7pm**.
- iii. Trailhead Kiosks: The need for kiosks at various trailheads was discussed, including Colburn Town Forest, Rangers Town Forest, Tiger Road, as well as potentially kiosk and/or trailhead signage at the Parker Preserve, Robinson Drive, Schaeffer Circle, and other properties. Mr. Walter expressed interest in taking on some responsibility for kiosks and signage. Ms. Griswold suggested that she would reach out to the local schools and scout troops to see if there was any interest by students and/or scout members in building (a) kiosk(s) as a senior capstone and/or scout project.

- iv. Land Trusts: Mr. Murphy indicated he had reached out to the Piscataquog Land Conservancy regarding seeking their assistance w/ conserving land in Hudson and was waiting to hear back about setting up a meeting.
- v. Invasive Species – Aquatic: Mr. Murphy to follow up with Amy Semuglis regarding pond health evaluation and the need for aquatic invasive species treatment.
- vi. Invasive Species – Non-Aquatic: Mr. Murphy proposed the idea for a multi-year program focused on invasive species control, including Japanese knotweed, bittersweet, and burning bush, as well as poison ivy removal. Further discussion and coordination with Full Circle Forestry (Evergreen) or another qualified company needed.
- vii. Abandoned Vehicles – Pelham Road: Discussion took place on whether to remove abandoned vehicles from the Pelham Road conservation area. Mr. Morin suggested that the Fire Department has the “jaws of life” tool and may be able to assist with cutting up the vehicles to allow their removal – the parts could be placed roadside and picked up by the Department of Public Works (DPW). There was general interest in removing the vehicles and will require further discussion at future meeting(s).
- viii. Trail Sign, Marking, Condition Inventory: Mr. Murphy proposed that each member could take on responsibility to evaluate one or more of the town conservation properties and locate needed, missing, or damaged trail signs as well as needed blazing and maintenance. It was generally agreed to evaluate each property prior to the regularly-scheduled commission meeting in March, with responsibilities assigned as follows:

-Musquash Conservation Area:	Mr. Murphy, Ms. Griswold
-Rangers Town Forest:	Mr. Cameron
-Tiger Road:	Ms. Griswold
-Robinson Pond:	Mr. Walter, Mr. Cameron
-Robinson Drive:	Mr. Walter
-Colburn Town Forest:	Mr. Dickinson
- ix. Shade Tree Program: The idea of a shade tree program was introduced. Mr. Walter expressed strong support for (a) shade tree and/or tree planting program(s). Mr. Dickinson expressed interest in trying to do a program similar to the American chestnut tree re-introduction project at Benson Park. Mr. Murphy indicated there is a nursery in Swanzey that grows these trees and that he would reach out to Kurt Laffan for more information. Further discussion needed on this topic.
- x. Other Work Items: Topics for discussion deferred to the next meeting included:
 - Trail Stewardship Program
 - Updating Commission By-Laws

III. Other Business

a. Training Opportunities – First-Aid and Chainsaw Safety

Ms. Griswold indicated she was waiting for the Hudson Fire Department to respond with available dates for the training.

b. Hudson Trail Challenge – Patch Design Contest

Ms. Griswold provided an update that contest submittals are due by 1/31/2026. Mr. Cameron stated that he had followed up with the Administrator’s office about getting the trail challenge application posted to the town website and had not received a response – Mr. Murphy indicated he would follow up.

c. Trolley Bed Trail & Gumpas Pond Connector Trail

Mr. Walter indicated that he had walked the trolley bed trail from Gibson Rd east to the Pelham town line and provided some observations.

d. Open Positions on the Conservation Commission

An update was provided that two (2) alternate member positions were still available and that the positions had been posted to the town website.

e. Social Media

Mr. Cameron indicated he would reach out to the town’s social media contact to request the upcoming trail work day be advertised.

f. Trail Work Day

The next trail work day is scheduled for **8:30 am on Sat 1/24** at the **intersection of Hawkview Drive and Gibson Road (park on Hawkview)**. The plan is to walk the Hudson portion of the trolley bed trail east to the Pelham town line and further evaluate needed repairs, possibly clearing brush and fallen trees along the way.

Afterward, depending on time, work will shift to completing the recently-cleared eastern segment of the Gumpas Pond Loop Trail at Musquash Conservation Area, hiking in from the Hinds Lane trailhead in Pelham. Mr. Cameron indicated that the trail had been cleared but had a couple large blowdowns and needed more blazing.

IV. Financial Status

a. Current Report

- i. Conservation Commission Operating Budget, available balance = \$46,111.80 (as of 1/6/2026, FY 2026). Brief discussion took place on the “professional services” line item and how much of the previously-approved “up to” \$100,000.00 had been expended for design/permitting fees

for the Robinson Pond boat launch improvements and how much, if any, remained to be spent.

- ii. Conservation Fund: No update provided. Balance = \$818,512.35 (as of previous meeting, December, 2025, FY 2026).

V. Correspondence

None

VI. Approval of Minutes: December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Discussion:

None

Motion:

Mr. Dickinson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Griswold, to accept the December 8, 2025 regular meeting minutes. The motion carried 5/0/0.

VII. Commissioners' Comments

None

VIII. Adjournment

Motion:

Ms. Griswold made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walter, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried 5/0/0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

****Next Regular Meeting: Monday, February 9, 2026 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