



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: March 9, 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 <u> X </u>	Ken Dickinson Vice-Chair <u> X </u>	Christopher Cameron Clerk <u> X </u>	John Walter Member <u> X </u>
Kathy Griswold Member <u> X </u>	David Morin Selectman Liaison <u> X </u>	Don Kirkland Engineer <u> X </u>	

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CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON AT	7:02 P.M.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Ms. Griswold
ROLL CALL	Mr. Cameron
SEATING OF ALTERNATES:	None
PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS:	7:03 P.M. – None

I. New Business

None

II. Old Business

a. Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Application: 273 Lowell Rd – “Restaurant Depot”

Site Walk: **Rescheduled for Sat 3/21/2026 at 9:00am at 273 Lowell Rd.**

b. Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Application: 207 Central St – “Meadows Property”

On the agenda for the Planning Board meeting on 3/11/2026.

Site Walk: None scheduled. A combined site walk with the Planning Board is desired at a future date, which will be coordinated and scheduled by the Planning Board.

III. Other Business

a. NHDES – Town Forest Management

Mr. Cameron presented some correspondence received from NHDES requesting information from NH municipalities on their municipal forests, forest management plans, conservation plans, master plans, etc. Mr. Cameron will coordinate with the Engineering Department to compile and provide the requested information to DES.

It was indicated that the current municipal forests are Kimball Hill, Rangers Drive, and Colburn, of which Kimball Hill and Rangers Drive have forest management plans. Colburn Town Forest was indicated not to be a good candidate for a forest management plan currently due to the relatively young age and overall good health of the forest.

Musquash Conservation Area, although not officially a town forest, was previously evaluated for a forest management plan and the Commission at the time decided against it due to concerns with recreation access being limited during any timber harvesting activities. It was noted that Musquash could be re-evaluated in the future for a potential forest management plan.

Mr. Murphy mentioned that the Tiger Road property had been evaluated and was found to have limited opportunity for timber harvest, however it could be a good candidate for a timber stand improvement (TSI) forest management plan, which would remove certain trees (and possibly plants, such as invasive species) to improve the overall health of the forest.

Reference was made to the current Open Space Plan, which the Commission is in the process of working to update, along with the Town Master Plan. It was unclear if there were any other town resources available, such as a sustainability plan, however anything relevant could be provided to NHDES.

b. Trail Work Day

The most recent trail work day took place on Sat 3/7/2026. Members Murphy, Dickinson, Griswold, and Cameron walked the Hudson portion of the trolley bed trail east to the Pelham town line and cleared some branches and saplings along the way that had grown across the path.

Afterward, members Murphy and Cameron snowshoed to the recently-cleared eastern segment of the Gumpas Pond Loop Trail at Musquash Conservation Area. Several large blowdowns were

cleared from the trail and the trail was observed to be in good shape but in need of signage and blazing.

The next trail work day is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday 3/21, immediately following the site walk at 273 Lowell Rd, which is tentatively scheduled for 9:00 a.m.**

c. Workshop – Open Space Plan

A Conservation Commission workshop is re-scheduled for **Thursday 3/19/2026 at 7:00 p.m.** to work on updating the Hudson Open Space Plan; location TBD. It was mentioned that discussion would take place at the workshop about the Circumferential Highway parcels, which NHDOT is presenting at an upcoming public hearing on 3/26/2026.

d. MS4 Stormwater Permit

Mr. Kirkland provided a brief overview of the permit process and criteria. He indicated that the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit process was established by the state of NH in 2017 to regulate pollutants in surface waters. The applicability for Hudson was determined to be Robinson Pond and the regulated pollutant is phosphorus (K). Phosphorus can enter watersheds from a variety of sources, including animal waste, fertilizers, surface water runoff, etc. It was indicated that the current phosphorus level in Robinson Pond is around 170 mg/L and the targets for the MS4 permit are a 20% reduction in phosphorus within Robinson Pond by 2026, 40% reduction by 2028, 70% by 2031, and 100% by 2033. Credits for reduction can be gained by various activities, including both “structural” and “non-structural” best management practices (BMPs). Non-structural BMPs include education and other resources to help reduce sources of phosphorus pollution (pet waste cleanup, alternative fertilizers, leave cleanup/disposal, etc.). Structural BMPs include physical measures that treat surface water runoff before it enters watersheds, such as stormwater retention and treatment systems, increased wetland buffers, etc., as well as measures, such as addition of alum, that treat the surface water to remove, consolidate, and/or deactivate phosphorus.

IV. Financial Status

a. Current Report

- i. Conservation Commission Operating Budget, available balance = \$39,094.81 (as of 3/3/2026, FY 2026). \$2,500 was withdrawn for closing costs on the land purchase at 3 Barretts Hill Rd. The approximately \$90,000 purchase price for the property will be withdrawn soon from the Conservation Fund.
- ii. Conservation Fund: Update provided but no change shown. Balance = \$823,163.15 (as of January 2026, FY 2026).

b. Request from Engineering for Additional Funds

The Engineering Department submitted a request for an additional \$9,000 to be expended by the Commission to cover outstanding tasks for the permitting and design of the Robinson Pond boat

launch improvements. Mr. Kirkland indicated the Commission had spent around \$120,000 to date for this effort. The original contract with VHB was for the amount of \$108,750.

Discussion:

Mr. Dickinson expressed concern that the Engineering Department is coming back to the Commission to request additional funds. The concern was raised that the budget for MS4 permit compliance should be increased within the annual town budget, either as part of the Conservation Commission operating budget or separate.

Motion: To expend \$9,000 for the completion of outstanding tasks related to the boat launch improvements at Robinson Pond related to the MS4 stormwater permit compliance.

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

V. Correspondence

NHDES provided a notice of a grant award for 50% matching funds to cover invasive aquatic plant species control and removal. It was indicated that the Board of Selectman had voted to accept the grant award at one of their recent meetings so no action was required by the Commission.

VI. Approval of Minutes: February 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Discussion:

None

Motion: To accept the February 9, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

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

VII. Commissioners' Comments

Mr. Walter presented a three-dimensional (3-D) topographic map/model he had created of Robinson Pond, showing the watershed and various terrain features around the pond. He then presented a 3-D model of a vernal pool that he had created, along with a poster containing various photos and facts about vernal pools. Mr. Walter indicated he planned to share these materials at the upcoming "Protect Our Ponds" conference in Pelham, along with an upcoming presentation at the Hudson Senior Center, scheduled for **4/14/2026 at 10:00 a.m.**

Mr. Cameron again reminded members of the discussion at the previous meeting around members taking inventory of trail sign and marking needs at conservation properties. He added that in addition to trail signs and markings, members could look for vernal pools and identify the locations of any observed so that they could potentially be added to the maps.

VIII. Adjournment

Discussion:

None

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

**Next Regular Meeting: Monday, April 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Cameron, Clerk