



# TOWN OF HUDSON

## Conservation Commission



Carl Murphy, Vice Chair

Dillon Dumont, Select Board Liaison

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

**DATE: June 8, 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<br>Chair <u>  X  </u>           | Ken Dickinson<br>Vice-Chair <u>  X  </u>   | Christopher Cameron<br>Secretary <u>  X  </u> | John Walter<br>Member <u>  X  </u>    | Kathy Griswold<br>Member <u>  X  </u> |
| Patricia Keller<br>Alt. Member <u>  X  </u> | Makaela Murray<br>Alt. Member <u>  X  </u> | Dillon Dumont<br>Select Board <u>  X  </u>    | Don Kirkland<br>Engineer <u>  X  </u> |                                       |

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| CALL TO ORDER BY CHAIRPERSON AT           | 7:01 P.M.        |
| PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE                      | Mr. Murphy       |
| ROLL CALL                                 | Mr. Cameron      |
| SEATING OF ALTERNATES:                    | None seated      |
| PUBLIC INPUT RELATED TO NON-AGENDA ITEMS: | 7:02 P.M. – None |

### I. New Business

#### a. Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Application: Eversource Energy – 326 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project

The applicant's representatives, Kurt Nelson of Eversource Energy and Lindsey Tower of GZA, presented the Conditional Use Permit application for the proposed replacement of three (3) utility pole towers in the utility corridor right-of-way extending across Boyd Rd in Hudson into

Londonderry. The proposed permanent wetland buffer impacts of 11,977 +/- square-feet (SF) and temporary wetland buffer impacts of 0 SF, including top-dressing of the existing gravel access road and construction of up to 100 ft by 100 ft compacted-gravel work pads around each pole. It was noted by the applicant's representatives that the size of the gravel pads would be reduced to approximately 30 ft by 60 ft at the end of construction by top-dressing the excess area with existing top soil from the site and then seeding and mulching that same area. Only one of the 3 work pads, the one around utility pole # 76 on the plans, encroaches into a wetland buffer.

Discussion took place on the access route utilizing the existing gravel road previously approved and constructed, which passes through wetland buffer areas. Proposed work on the gravel road is limited to top-dressing with additional gravel only as required to gain access to the site with construction equipment. The applicant indicated that work would take place during the fall/winter months, beginning around October 15 and extending into January, due to environmental concerns and restrictions.

Discussion took place on whether or not any of the impacts were temporary or if all were permanent and on the proposed restoration for the areas of the gravel pads in excess of the final proposed size. Mr. Cameron inquired if the applicant would be amenable to specifying conservation seed mix for the proposed restoration areas and the applicant agreed.

### **Motion to "Recommend":**

Mr. Dickinson moved to recommend a favorable acceptance by the Hudson Planning Board of the Conditional Use Permit application filed by GZA, representatives of Eversource Energy, reference 326 Transmission Line Structure Replacement Project, dated May 28, 2026. After application review, the Hudson Conservation Commission finds that the uses presented by the applicant, along with the proposed site grading, comply with Town of Hudson Zoning Ordinance 334, Article IX- Wetland Conservation Overlay District, paragraphs 334-36(C) 2 through 4, and 334-37. This favorable acceptance is contingent upon Planning Board approval of the proposed subdivision plan along with the recommendations and stipulations listed below:

### **General recommendations by the Hudson Conservation Commission to the Planning Board:**

1. A stipulation and/or note should be added to the plan(s) that states: "During construction and restoration erosion control barriers shall be installed and maintained, to the satisfaction of the Town Engineer, along the limits of disturbance within, and/or adjacent to, any wetland(s) and/or wetland buffer(s)."
2. A stipulation and/or note should be added to the plan(s) that states: "Stockpiling of construction materials is not allowed within the wetland or wetland buffer areas of the site, excluding areas of proposed impact."
3. A stipulation and/or note should be added to the plan(s) that states: "Construction and restoration activities shall comply with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Best Management Practices Manual for Utilities in and Adjacent to Wetlands and Waterbodies (March 2019)."

4. A stipulation and/or note should be added to the plan(s) that states: “The Applicant and/or their representatives will adhere to the Best Management Practices (BMPs) detailed in the associated Conditional Use Permit application, sheets S2 and S3, as well as the notes on Sheets S1 and S4-S7, dated May 28, 2026.”
5. A stipulation and/or note should be added to the plan(s) that states: “Impacted wetland buffer areas proposed to be restored shall be re-seeded with conservation seed mix to be approved by the Town Engineer or their designee.”

\*This motion is based on the plan(s) submitted by the applicant. It is recommended that if changes are made to the plan(s) that result in additional impacts to the wetland and/or wetland buffer area(s), the plan(s) be resubmitted to the Conservation Commission for further review.

**Motion seconded by:**

Mr. Walter

Motion X carried or     failed (check one). Vote count: 5 / 0 / 0 (yea / nay / abstain).

**b. New Alternate Member**

Members welcomed the newly-appointed alternate member, Makaela Murray, to the Commission. Ms. Murray expressed her enthusiasm for joining the Commission and the opportunity to contribute to protecting the natural resources in Hudson.

**c. Conservation Commission By-Laws – Review**

Discussion took place on sub-committees. Selectman Dumont advised that updating the by-laws would be a great purpose for a sub-committee. Mr. Cameron made a motion, seconded by Ms. Griswold, to form a sub-committee to review and update the by-laws. Mr. Cameron asked if this was different from a workshop and it was indicated that the two terms are sometimes used interchangeably. The motion carried 5/0/0.

**II. Old Business**

**a. NHDOT Circumferential Hwy Parcels – LCHIP Grant**

Discussion took place on the proposed application for the Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grant program for the potential purchase of one of the abandoned Circumferential Hwy parcels for sale at 121-R Wason Rd. Mr. Kirkland provided an update that Mr. Dhima, Town Engineer/Director of Development Services had completed the full LCHIP grant application himself and filed it with the state, which had been a significant undertaking. The next step would be a decision in November on grant recipients and then, if the project is selected, a request would be made at that time for additional information, including a property survey. Mr. Murphy stated that he had spoken with Mr. Dhima who had indicated that the grant application included additional costs for survey, closing costs, and other related costs to complete

the land purchase. The Commission expressed appreciation to Mr. Dhima and Mr. Kirkland for their assistance with this and to the Select Board for their support.

**b. Trail Easement Request: 51 Trigate Rd**

No update – defer to next meeting. Selectman Dumont indicated that he had spoken with the land owner and they were anticipating receiving a request letter from the Commission.

**III. Other Business**

**a. Trail Work Day**

The most recent trail work day, scheduled for 5/30/2026, was cancelled due to inclement weather.

The next trail work day is scheduled for **Saturday 6/20 at 8:30 a.m. at the Rangers Drive trailhead for Rangers Town Forest.** The plan (same as the previously scheduled work day) is to walk the newly-acquired property adjacent to Rangers Town Forest and evaluate maintenance needs, existing/potential trails, etc. The property boundary may be marked with conservation markers if it is clearly delineated by survey markers.

**b. Trail Reports**

Mr. Cameron indicated that Rangers Town Forest has 3 primary access points: Rangers Drive, Roy Drive, and the bottom of the hill at the south end of Barretts Hill Rd. The Rangers Drive and Roy Drive locations both have parking at the end of cul-de-sacs and it would make sense to install trailhead signage and/or kiosks at these locations, with Rangers Drive being the primary entrance and priority. The existing trails are un-marked and could be blazed to match the colors on the trail map, which could be updated as needed.

Mr. Walter indicated that the Tiger Road property trails are in reasonably good condition, however trimming/brushing is needed. Mr. Walter also stated that the trolley bed trail needs signage and some additional work at the stream crossing, along with removal of invasive plants near the trailhead on Gibson Rd.

Ms. Murray stated that she had visited the Tiger Road property as well and that it is a very nice forest, although the trails are overgrown and in need of additional blazing.

Mr. Murphy indicated that Kimball Hill Town Forest has a couple fallen trees to be cleared and is in need of some brushing.

Mr. Dickinson observed that there are several trees down at the Colburn Town Forest that would best be cleared with a chainsaw. He also indicated that a kiosk is needed at the Musquash Rd entrance to Colburn. Mr. Cameron asked if there was any signage at the Trigate Rd entrance and commented that all access points to public conservation land trails should be

marked.

#### **IV. Financial Status**

##### **a. Current Report**

- i. The current remaining balance in the operating budget for FY2026, ending 6/30/2026, is \$14,404.00 as of the latest report. Mr. Kirkland advised that a large expenditure was forthcoming for herbicide treatment at Ottarnic Pond, scheduled for 5/19/2026, to control invasive aquatic plant species at that location, which would likely use up most of those remaining funds. A similar treatment will be completed at Robinson Pond later in the spring/summer that will likely come from the FY2027 budget.
- ii. Conservation Fund: Balance = \$827,559.94 (as of March 2026, FY 2026). The approx.. \$90,000 purchase price for the property at 3 Barretts Hill Rd will be withdrawn soon from the Conservation Fund, if it has not already been withdrawn.

#### **V. Correspondence**

##### **a. NH Turtle Rescue Fact Sheet**

Provided information on turtle crossings and how to assist a turtle in danger of being struck by a vehicle.

##### **b. NH Lakes: Annual Donation Request.**

The Commission has historically supported NH Lakes with an annual donation in the amount of \$100.00.

##### Discussion:

A brief discussion took place on the amount and frequency of the donation.

##### Motion:

**To expend \$100.00 for the annual donation to NH Lakes.**

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

##### **c. NHDES: Environmental Fact Sheet – Vegetation Management for Water Quality & Waterfront Protection**

Mr. Walter briefly summarized the fact sheet and the importance of shorefront vegetation for water quality. He indicated he had made a physical model of a shorefront that he would bring to the next meeting.

**VI. Approval of Minutes: April 13, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes; April 27, 2026 Site Walk Meeting Minutes**

Discussion:

Mr. Cameron: Correction on page 1 of the 4/13/2026 Regular Meeting Minutes: Replace instances of “LeClaire” with “LeClair”.

Motion:

**To accept the meeting minutes, as amended, from the April 13, 2026 Regular Meeting and April 27, 2026 Site Walk Meeting.**

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

**VII. Commissioners’ Comments**

Mr. Kirkland mentioned that Mr. Dhima has advised the Commission to revisit the by-laws, last updated in 2019, to ensure they are current and consistent.

Mr. Dickinson mentioned a broken footbridge at the Robinson Pond Recreation Area, in the southwestern portion of the property, closer to Robinson Drive, that is not needed in that location and could be removed or relocated and modified for re-use at another location. He also mentioned that there are a number of blowdowns at Colburn Town Forest, one of which is large and likely warrants a short trail re-route.

Mr. Walter re-capped a presentation given the previous month at the Hudson Senior Center, along with a guided hike at the Tiger Road conservation property. He mentioned that there was an individual uncovering artifacts near one of the old foundations on the property. Discussion took place on regulations regarding digging/archaeological exploration on town conservation land and appropriate treatment of those activities. Selectman Dumont indicated he would research existing town regulations on the topic. Ms. Keller cautioned about liability concerns along with potential site disturbance and destruction of artifacts (intentional or otherwise).

**VIII. Adjournment**

Motion:

**To adjourn the meeting.**

**Motion by: Mr. Dickinson Second: Mr. Cameron**

**Discussion: None**

**Motion carried/failed: Carried, 5 / 0 / 0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.**

***\*Next Regular Meeting: Monday, June 8, 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