



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD
RINDGE, NH 03461

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DRAFT MINUTES for Meeting on September 25, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Mellor, Friedman, Drouin, Lefebvre, Dodge, Rogers, Dickler, Synnott, Rubendall

OLD BUSINESS

- NRI Mapping Update – Friedman/Rubendall
 - Steven has all the trails mapped except a small part of Town Forest that Richard has. Will get help from Del to complete. Blue dot trail needs to be cleared and posted.
- FPU Internship and class project – Rogers
 - Catherine Konig forwarded email stating the announcement to her students about going into the field to set up project. She requested any historical information we might have available.
- Merrimack Partnership Conservation Grant – Dickler
 - Zoom meeting held 9/25 that Dickler participated in. Will receive \$4,850 (97%) of what we requested. A management plan for MPC is being created to look at how future grants will be handled. Dickler will send an email about an in-person meeting on October 6 in Hollis in case someone can attend.
- 250th Declaration of Independence Tree Planting – Lefebvre
 - Need to decide where the tree will be planted and what additional costs are involved in planting. Mike Cloutier would dig the hole, but is concerned about more large trees on the common. When everything is decided, it needs to be presented to the BOS. Wellington Road, School Street, or the West Rindge common are other possible locations, to be suggested to the BOS. Con. Comm. will be responsible for watering weekly. Dodge suggested several specific planting instructions that should be followed. Also noted that Liberty Elms are susceptible to Dutch elm disease and Asian longhorn beetles.
 - Motion to proceed with presenting the acquisition of the Liberty Elm tree to the BOS made by Lefebvre, seconded by Mellor. Unanimous vote.
 - First choice – School Street ; second choice – Common
- Women's Club Harvest Fair (9/27) – Dickler
 - Fair hours 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. \$25 fee for the table. Lefebvre, Simeone, Dodge and Mellor will assist Dickler, who will set up at 8:30.
- Conservation Land & Related –
 - Contoocook workday report (Sept 13)
 - Bridge repairs completed. Three corps members were there. Trail marked at Roger's Landing. Loop to Paul's Point was improved and the view of Contoocook Lake opened up.
 - A sign was proposed to encourage walkers past the gate. Another sign pointing out the old Route 202 section.
 - September 14, "Hug Your Hound Day! Hike" at Tetreault/Town Forest
 - Four people attended with two dogs.
 - Work day October 11; 8:00 – 12:00.
 - Brush clearing, bridge construction and invasives removal at Ford property.
 - Mellor moved spending up to \$600 for the gully bridge lumber; seconded by Lefebvre. Unanimous vote.
 - Tetreault Park. Synnott had a crew from the Recreation Committee fill the steps to the slide with stone. He noted a need to build up the log barrier between the sand box and the perimeter trail.

- Lefebvre presented two map options for Schoolhouse Park, identifying historical features and the trails. The commission favored the larger map that includes the entire property. Dickler suggested it be placed on one of the pedestal frames used for other interpretive signs.

NEW BUSINESS

- NHACC Annual Conference; Saturday November 1
 - Schedule was circulated and all encouraged to attend. Field trips included this year.
- Conservationist of the Year committee – Lefebvre
 - Nominations open October 1 and close November 15. Lefebvre will chair the committee. Promotion to include announcements to Conservation Corps, chamber of commerce, newspapers and website.
- 2025 Budget review
 - A discussion was held about whether we should advocate for retaining the property maintenance budget for \$2500 or pay invoices out of the conservation fund. Consensus was to ask for a level budget for next year.
 - Wages under budget due to note taker being paid from separate fund. Expected to be reversed at year end and charged to Con. Comm.
- Cheshire County Conservation annual meeting at Allison's Orchard in Walpole, October 22. Dickler raised the idea of doing a year end fund raising appeal for the Conservation Commission.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

- Wetland Permit by Notification; Franklin Pierce University, beach sand replenishment
- Alleged violation; 146 Kimball Road; Map 39, Lot 16
- Alleged violation; 162 Kimball Road; Map 39, Lot 13
- Intent to cut; Map 11, Lot 33

Account Approvals & Update

- Sunrise Landscaping invoice – approved for payment.

Upcoming Events

- Women's Club Harvest Fair (Wellington) 9/27
- Open mike (History Museum) 9/27
- Bat presentation, Mon. 10/13 6:30
- October 19, 3:30; hike at Miriam Hunt Memorial Forest (bat appreciation month)

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES for September 8, 2025

- Motion to approve with changes – Rubendall; seconded by Lefebvre. Approved by 7; 2 abstentions

Adjournment: motion to adjourn – Lefebvre; seconded by Mellor. Unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted by Rob Rubendall