



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD  
RINDGE, NH 03461

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### Minutes for Meeting on February 9, 2026, 6:30 p.m. Rindge Town Office

**Members in Attendance:** Drouin, Mellor, Rubendall, Lefebvre, Dickler, Friedman, Simeone, Rogers

**Public in Attendance:** Penny & Paul Zhitomi

#### OLD BUSINESS

- UNH/NHACC Landscape Scale Project Zoom meeting – Mellor
  - Meeting on February 19 at 6p with UNH Extension to determine project objectives and goals for land management program. One workshop required for participation, no other financial commitment.
- LUCT warrant article update – Dickler
  - Positive turnout for Deliberative Session with public support. Dickler asked for next steps; commission expressed support of a strong 'No' vote on the warrant article. Recommended additional *Letters to the Editor*, social media presence, email to ConComm listserv, unified position on issue.
- Sign style committee report – Lefebvre
  - Tabled for February 26
- Franklin Pierce student poster project – Rubendall
  - Tabled for February 26
- Trail map final review – Rubendall
  - Rubendall walked commission through edited maps with edits as provided in previous meeting. Feedback included that White trails on map are especially hard to read and overall trail colors need better contrast. Addition of map titles. Friedman will relay necessary edits to Steven.
  - Steven will be at February 26 meeting to present.
- Earth Day 2026 program committee – Dickler
  - Dickler and Rogers are commission representatives for event on April 26, 10a-4p. One confirmed lecture, commission will host hikes and poetry walk. Lefebvre asked about cost sharing, which is TBD.
  - Drouin asked about reordering merch for the year, commission agreed to assess stock and reorder.
- Full moon owl prowl hike – Drouin
  - Fifteen attendees joined an approx. 2hr hike led by Drouin, Mellor and Rubendall.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Eversource utility maintenance project – Stefanie Tetreault, Project Manager
  - Tetreault distributed materials on behalf of Eversource for upcoming Line 367 improvement project
  - Per previously shared email detailing project: Proposed work in Rindge includes the replacement of 27 wooden utility transmission structures within Eversource's Line 367 transmission corridor, of which three (3) replacement structures would be located in wetlands. The existing structures have exceeded their design life and are increasingly prone to deterioration, which compromises service reliability. Proposed replacements will consist of modern steel poles supported by steel caissons, designed to enhance structural stability, extend the service life of the transmission system, and align the infrastructure with current engineering and safety standards. The project includes construction and improvement of existing upland gravel access roads and work pads, and temporary placement of timber matting in wetlands.
  - 27 structures in Rindge in two distinct districts: Aquifer Protection Overlay District and Wetlands Conservation District.
  - NH Fish & Game reviewed project and set conditions to protect key species with detailed process for restrictions during construction – overseen by mix of DES biologists and trained reps from Eversource.

- Total upland impact area of 337,827; approx. 110,295sf within the 50' buffer, 61,178sf within the 150' buffer and 102,057sf temporary wetland impact, 835sf of temporary impact to a platform pool
- Commission discussed project tower locations and various impacts. Tetrault noted that project is slated to start May 2026 in uplands areas with 1yr completion timeline from Fitzwilliam, NH to Milford, NH.
- Commission noted that an official opinion cannot be rendered until an application is filed with the ZBA.
- 2026 program and hike schedule – Dickler
  - Dickler distributed 2026-27 schedule with a proposed total of 8 workdays, 3 presentations, 5 hikes, and 4 special events. Commission discussed event specifics and timelines.
- Land Parcel on rt119 South - Rogers
  - Through FPU, Rogers requested meeting with landowner Jim Hennessey to discuss possibility to wetlands sale or conservation easement. Rogers will reach out to landowner to arrange meeting with RCC.
- Earth Week in April – Rogers
  - RCC was requested to have table as part of FPU Earth Week on Friday, April 24, 11a-4p.
- DES Pollution Reduction Grant – Rubendall
  - Status of Town Forest updating the 2018 UNH report with relevant links and maps requested. Mellor noted that one management plan for Town Forest and Tetrault exists in print or digital form.
- Current Use – Lefebvre
  - Current use being discussed at state level; Dickler and Lefebvre encouraged members to submit their opinions to the state legislature and will follow up with instructions on how to do so.
- Boy Scout Troop – Drouin
  - Scouts request one night overnight at Converse for camping, Commission approved request.

#### **OFFICIAL NOTICES**

- Gateway district rezoning (Case 2026-02)
  - Commission determined no conservation impact. Drouin will write to ZBA with recommendation.

#### **Account Approvals & Update**

- Gordon Services invoice
  - Plowing to date has been expensive; \$1,140 in January out of \$2,500 annual mowing and plowing budget. Commission discussed eliminating plowing from County Rd and Schoolhouse to reduce plowing expenses.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- UNH/NHACC Landscape Scale Project Zoom meeting – February 19, 6:00 p.m.

#### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES** for January 22, 2026

- Lefebvre moved to approve the minutes of the January 22 meeting as written, seconded by Simeone. Commission voted 7-0-1 in favor, motion passed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Rubendall moved to adjourn, seconded by Mellor. Commission voted 8-0 in favor, meeting adjourned 9:00pm

*Respectfully submitted by Amanda Nardini*