

1 **Conservation Commission Meeting**

2 **October 9, 2025, 7:00PM**

3 **Meeting House**

4
5 **Members Present:** Ken Stern (Chair), Kelly Short (Vice Chair), Audra Klumb, Lance Messinger
6 (Treasurer), Bob Steenson, Steve Seron, Theresa Wyman, Charlie Comey (Alternate), Beth Blair
7 (BOS Rep),

8 **Members Absent:** None

9 **Others Present:** Martha Gilman

10 Meeting was called to Order at 7:01PM

11 Group photo – A group photo was taken by Paul Lepasquer who is gathering photos of all boards
12 and commissions. Teresa was not present for the photo. She arrived shortly thereafter.

13 Minutes of September 11, 2025

14 **Minutes:** The draft minutes were presented for review. Kelly noted that the formal process for
15 minutes has one person prepare the minutes for posting. That draft should be sent to Kelly for
16 posting on line. At the following meeting, all edits to the draft minutes should be recorded in the
17 meeting minutes of that meeting. Steve motioned to accept the minutes from the September 11,
18 2025 meeting, Lance seconded the motion. The motion carried.

19 **Property Management:**

20 **1) Schoodac Conservation Area**

21 It was reported that several people read the town newsletter and attempted to locate the bench
22 at the scenic overlook. When they arrived at the Schoodac Loop Trail, they walked that loop at
23 which point they did not see the bench. Many turned around and went home, a few walked
24 further to the overlook. The Commission agreed that better signage is needed. Beth has the
25 posts and signs salvaged from the area during our last work day. A sub-committee of Ken,
26 Bob, Lance and Beth will review this and initiate corrective action soon.

27 **2) Kimball Pond- RSFCA**

- 28 a) Path beyond the new bridge. Ken reported that the new bridge across the spillway on the
29 dam leads to an area that is overgrown with brush and suggested a path be cleared. Kelly
30 and Lance had also walked the area. A work day was scheduled for Saturday October 25th
31 at 9am, meet at the dam.
- 32 b) Safety zone signs. Kelly reported on unofficial signs being placed by Bob Fife indicating
33 a safety zone and no hunting. The discussion followed that no guns should be discharged
34 within 300 feet of a house or across water. Concern over the discharge of firearms at
35 Kimball Pond and near the Martin's house were expressed. It was suggested that we have
36 a consistent policy for signage placement. Kelly will consult with several local hunters to
37 gather their input on signage. At this time the existing signs will remain in place
- 38 c) Unauthorized trail at northern boundary. Lance reported that he had spoken with Dave
39 Emerson about this small trail in the woods which enters the town property from the
40 abutting Cochrane property. Dave told Lance that he and a couple of other people cleared
41 and blazed the trail. Dave reported that he had obtained permission from Steve Cochrane

42 to mark the trail. The RSFCA area was surveyed by the Hildreth Family for a
43 subdivision. This subdivision plan was approved by the Planning Board. The town
44 purchased the RSFCA from Hildreth based upon the recorded plan. A portion of this trail
45 is on Town land. The Commission is of the opinion that the presence of the trail is not
46 detrimental to the conservation purposes of property.

- 47 d) Kinter's Garden Area. The Kinters donated this property to the Town and retained life
48 estate. Sarah Kinter has passed. Harry Kinter is about to move away. The Commission
49 will be considering options for future management of the property during the coming
50 months. A site walk will be scheduled for a future date. The CCC will consult with the
51 Canterbury Garden Club on possible future management. No budgeted work is proposed
52 for 2026.

- 53 **3) Briar Bush Road Town Forest** – Following the walk with the County Forester, Ken
54 prepared notes summarizing observations and possible actions which is in the property file.
55 No action is proposed for the near future. Kelly suggested we consider options for climate
56 resilience research at the site

57
58 **Operating Procedures.** The updated operating procedures are considered complete. A copy
59 will be posted to the CCC section of the town web site at some point in the future.

60
61 **Contaminated Soils Ordinance.** Ken took the notes from our prior discussion and
62 incorporated them into a memo to the Planning Board which was sent to the chair.

63
64 **Work Plan and Budget.** Kelly guided a discussion of the proposed budget line by line. The
65 proposed increase in the budget is primarily due to land management costs. The actual cost of
66 the easement stewardship may vary slightly once we receive the proposal from our
67 contractor. Bob moved to approve \$13, 605 as the initial budget submission to the Board of
68 Selectmen. Audra seconded. The motion carried.

69 The Conservation Commission will not be requesting any appropriation to the conservation
70 capital reserve fund.

71 **Wetland update.** The sub-committee met and discussed some of the issues related to a
72 potential wetland setback ordinance.

73 **Conservation Projects.** The commission discussed that the Abberton Farm is for sale. The
74 Commission would be interested in working with any potential buyer about a possible
75 conservation outcome for a portion of the property.

76
77 The Conservation Commission meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM.

78 The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2025.

79 Respectfully Submitted,

80 Ken Stern