

1 **Conservation Commission Meeting**

2 **November 13, 2025, 7:00PM**

3 **Meeting House**

4
5 **Members Present:** Kelly Short (Vice Chair), Audra Klumb, Steve Seron, Beth Blair (BOS Rep).
6 Ken Stern (Chair) attended by zoom,

7 **Members Absent:** Lance Messenger, Bob Steenson, Teresa Wyman, Charlie Comey.

8 Meeting was called to Order at 7:07 PM

9 Minutes of October 9, 2025

10 **Minutes:** Due to the lack of a quorum, the October 9th minutes were not finalized or accepted.

11 **Conservation Easement Monitoring**

12 Ken reported that Emily and Pete had completed the monitoring of this year's properties. Kelly
13 mentioned that she needs to pay the invoice. Ken then briefly summarized the findings.

14 There were no significant issues observed which need attention. Some follow up is in order with
15 landowners to maintain good communication and to review planned activities. Landowner
16 outreach is in order for the Messer-Powell easement as there was no landowner contact. For the
17 Booth-Whelan easement, Ken needs to review the easement terms prior to meeting with Melissa
18 Whelan relative to limited clearing in the easement area. For Booth-Day, there is ongoing bank
19 erosion which should be observed.

20 Ken will ask Emily and Pete to add landowner contact information to the reports.

21 **Property Permits** – There were no new wetland applications in need of review. As an aside it
22 was noted that the Planning Board issued a Notice of Decision authorizing the proposed
23 development of residential units on West Road. This development will have an open space set
24 aside. The permit has conditions to ensure that the open space remains open and monitored.

25 **Property Management:**

26 **1) Schoodac Conservation Area**

27 Ken reported that he and Bob Steenson went to the property and installed the new signs
28 created by Beth Blair which provide directional arrows to the bench and overlook area. While
29 there, they did some more clearing of young growth in the vista area.

30 **2) Riverland Conservation Area** – The annual mowing by Chris Aiken has been completed.

31 He mowed the entire area including the parking lot, path, field and open area along the river.
32 Ken reported that the area looked great. Kelly reported that the invoice for mowing was
33 \$950.

34 **3) Kimball Pond- RSFCA**

35 **a)** Path beyond the new bridge. Audra reported that she and Lance cleared the walking path
36 beyond the new bridge of brush and invasives. The trail through the woods goes through
37 two small wetland areas. Audra suggested re-routing the trail in these locations. The
38 Commission agreed and suggested that Audra mark suggested routes with flagging prior
39 to any clearing work.

- 40 b) The mowing of the field is presently underway.
41 c) Safety zone signs. There was discussion that responsible hunters are aware of the limits
42 on where it is legal to discharge firearms (proximity to houses, roads and across open
43 water). It was also the opinion of the Commission that irresponsible hunters would likely
44 ignore any signage. The consensus was to leave the property as it is.
45 d) Unauthorized trail at northern boundary. There was discussion that any new trails located
46 on town property or elsewhere should only be constructed after obtaining land owner
47 permission.
48 e) Kinter's Garden Area. Ken Folsom had Town Counsel prepare a letter releasing the life
49 estate held by the Kinters. Kelly has asjed Sam Papps, as a personal friend of Harry's, if
50 he would meet with Harry and ask if he is willing to sign the release.
51

52 **Wetland update.** The sub-committee has met a few times. More meetings are scheduled.

53 **HB 639** – This bill which proposes reducing barriers to the development of computer server
54 farms was briefly discussed. It was the consensus of the group that Kelly could draft a letter
55 of opposition.
56

57 **New Pond -Total Maximum Daily Load study (TMDL)**

58 This was an extensive study by the NH Department of Environmental Services on the water
59 quality of New Pond. The report affirmed the impairment of the water quality. The two
60 primary sources of nutrient loading (Phosphorus) which contribute to the water quality
61 problems are improperly designed and operating septic systems and runoff from roads and
62 other surfaces which transport sediment and nutrients into the pond. It was not clear who is
63 responsible for implementing improvements and whether these were voluntary or mandatory.
64 Kelly agreed to contact DES to learn more about next steps.
65

66 **Work Plan-** There was further discussion of potential projects for next year, including:

- 67
- 68 • RSFCA – trail rerouting; possible tree removals
 - 69 • Riverland: Signage. Another workday to remove invasives along fence.
 - 70 • CE monitoring: check in with owners who don't know they have CEs. Check in with
71 new owner of Booth parcel (re land clearing).
 - 72 • Kinter's garden: assess condition; discuss options with CES and Master Gardeners;
73 decide plan.
 - 74 • Conservation projects: continue pursuing projects
 - 75 • Past conservation projects: Compile data on past projects (what/where/size/funding, etc.)
76 Trails: Compile list of trails on town-owned land and consider offering formal "Adopt-a-
77 trail" or Trail Steward program for volunteer maintenance of trails.
 - 78 • **Conservation Projects.** The commission discussed continuing efforts to reach out to
79 landowners relative to conserving their properties.
- 80

81 The Conservation Commission meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

82 The next meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2025.

83 Respectfully Submitted,

84 Ken Stern

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