

Andover Conservation Commission
April 8, 2026
Final Minutes

Present: Nancy Robart, Laurel Shinerock, Miranda Dawalga, Nancy Teach, Lee Wells, Sooze Hodgson, Tina Cotton, Jesse Schust, Jenny Bodwell.

Meeting called to order at 7:03

March Minutes: Motion made by Laurel to approve, seconded by Nancy T: all in favor.

Communication:

- have received requests to donate to NH Lakes, and LSPA. Tina recommends we contribute to our own Highland Lake Protective Association.
- Copy of a request for a basal area variance, to salvage timber due to damage from fire, insects, disease, snow etc by Richard and Linda Wood on Depot St (Rte 4) heading towards Danbury. Request approved and work is being done.

Priority Business

ACC BHBT: \$3610 in Conservation Commission General Fund. Money Market account in Bar Harbor is in good shape.

Vote for Officers: Discussion to change Co-chairs to Chair & Vice Chair: This is something the Select Board would like to see. Motion made by Nancy T to consider and discuss changing the co-chairs title to Chair and Vice Chair, seconded by Lee: majority in favor.

Discussion: Town Counsel said that having co-chairs is fine. We will probably function as we always have regardless of title. Do we need to consult with Barbara Richter (Executive Director of New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissioners)? Jesse is willing to serve only as Vice-Chair. Both Jesse and Miranda like having/being co-chairs.

Jenny made a motion to keep our co-chair designation, seconded by Jesse: majority in favor.

Vote for officers: motion made by Lee to accept the full slate of officers: seconded by Laurel:

Co-chairs: Jesse Schust, Miranda Dawalga: majority in favor

Treasurer: Nancy Teach: all in favor

Secretary: Jenny Bodwell: all in favor

Recording Secretary: Lee Wells: all in favor

McDonough Trail Project: (April 11th and May 2nd): Laurel will show up with Proctor students, they should be arriving around 9:00. Lee will post at Town Hall and Post offices that there will be trail work happening on Saturday as we will probably have a quorum.

The ACC bench is now in front of the Bachelder Library. (Library likes the bench enough that they might get one to put there.) Ricker Miller would like to know who from the ACC can help and when we can do it. Nancy R will be in touch with him. FNRT will be presenting at the Andover Service Club next month.

Beaver Deceivers Discussion on required Maintenance: Jesse and Miranda met with Don Sieburg to discuss how to utilize the Beaver Deceiver Fund. We may contact Skip Lyle, arrange for him to come out, we do not need previous permission from the Select Board for each occurrence. Jesse will try to contact Skip, we can reach out to Vicky Mishcon if we need her help contacting him. We should keep Michelle Lambert in the loop. Skip will need to be reminded to submit his bill in a timely way. He may want to come and survey all of them first to plan repairs, etc. Don should be cc'd on all communication with Skip.

NRI – thank you, Tina – very comprehensive and well done. A suggestion: can we make the maps easier to read by putting them in an appendix? The maps are beautiful, but they need to have more space and be larger.

What is the process now? Do we take the NRI to the Planning Board? The Select Board doesn't have a role with this. It should be part of the Master Plan. Jake Gilman is the Vice-Chair. The Conservation Plan should be the end piece to the Master Plan. There is an old Conservation Plan on the website. We think having Alan McIntyre help organize a meeting to work with us on a Conservation Plan. (Check out Chapter 7 in the Conservation Commissions Handbook.)

Bog Pond/Transfer Station – White Oak Walk About – we will reschedule now that the weather is good and before the bugs come out. Miranda will be in touch with Don.

All Boards Meeting –Saturday, April 11th Nancy T and Miranda will attend. The rest of the us will be working on the McDonough trail.

Maple St Proposed Subdivision: hearing on April 21st. Spread the word for those concerned, meeting at 7:00.

On March 17th, Jesse attended a meeting about the culvert replacement project on the Old Lead Mine Road at the Prime Wetland. The land is state owned and managed as a wildlife management area. Kyle Bilodeau is the contact for this. The DES wants to visit the site and clarify whether the road is “wetland” or just a section of non-wetland between two wetlands. The map shows that the road is probably built on an artificial causeway. When they schedule a site visit, Kyle will let Jesse know and he'll invite anyone from the ACC to join the site visit. There was nothing about the plans to replace the culvert that seemed problematic. It is good that DES is asking to clarify something that the wetlands scientist left undefined. This is getting extra scrutiny because it is a Prime Wetland, and this meeting is required before the DES decides about a wetland permit.

Bridge Street – Bridge Street wetland incursion that we identified in the fall is still there. Fill has been put in and pushed into the wetland. No wetland permit was issued. Jesse will follow up with DES. Equipment is too heavy for the bridge. He also has unlicensed junkyards. The Select Board and Town Administration are aware.

Green Burial Presentation – postponed to May 5th

Library Pollinator Garden – great presentation by Suzanne Paul on March 24th at the Hub.

Highland Lake/Lake Friendly Boating - NH Lakes Presentation, May 13th.

Sand Replenishment Project Request for Highland Lake's Chafee Beach from Town Administrator, Don Sieburg – Nancy T will work on this. Don has the application that needs to be completed. We will fill out the application.

At the March 2026 Town Meeting the town voted unanimously to sell the Town owned property on Bradley Point Lane.

Loons are back on Bradley Lake.

Motion made to close the meeting by Nancy T, seconded by Jenny: all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33