

Andover Conservation Commission
May 13, 2026
Final Minutes

Attendance: Pecco Beaufauys, Tina Cotton, Sooze Hodgson, Jesse Schust, Miranda Dawalga, Lee Wells, Nancy Teach, Laurel Shinerock, Nancy Robart

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm

Also attending: Sandra Graves, Barbara Couturier, Janet Eklund, Mark Cowdry, Donna Duclos.

Review/approve minutes: regular meeting and field work minutes as amended: motion made to approve by Miranda, seconded by Nancy Teach: all in favor.

ACC BHBT balance & budget: we have spent no money since last month.

Sand replenishment project: Janet Eklund: Janet asked the town if it is something that they would like to do. The project will have to be approved by DES, permit is good for five years: project proposal includes a drawing of beach and area to be covered, arial photos, and not more than 10 cubic yards of clean, washed sand. It costs \$85 per yard delivered. The ACC would need to sign off on the project. Janet Eklund will fill out the documentation and Don will sign-off, Select Board will need to be informed. It will cost \$650 for the application fee. New sand will be added on top of the old sand. Janet will keep us in the loop.

HLPa (Highland Lake Protective Association) update from Barbara: Barbara explained the Lake Host program which will start Memorial Day weekend. The number of lakes that are part of the state wide Lake Host program is increasing. Highland Lake's milfoil was removed last year. This is voluntary program, the inspection is a courtesy inspection. People do not have to have their boats inspected. Barbara has taken this to the select board, they have approved having a tent and signs at the kiosk at the lake. They have requested that she report back in September with data. Steve Barton, Fire Chief, is allowing materials to be stored at the Fire Station. We are registered with NH Lakes. Barbara has completed the coordinator's training, 3 members have completed the host training. More hosts are needed. If a boat owner wishes to have their boat inspected the boat owner needs to fill out a questionnaire, which includes questions such as – where has your boat been, what was the last lake your boat was in? The lake host records this info, there is then a walk about, if there are any aquatic invasive species, they are pulled off, identified and thrown away. This boat inspection takes place when it arrives at the boat launch and when the boat comes out of the lake. Lake Hosts will be at the lake on weekends from 7am – 2pm. HLPa's program will be a voluntary program this year. In the future HLPa hopes to pay the lake hosts. HLPa will continue to test the lake twice a year – early and late season. There will be events: ice cream social, raffle, 4th of July event TBA. They have been updating mailing lists. They have a new logo. Collaborating with other organizations: working with Donna Baker-Hartwell and her work with the loons, FNRT (Friends of the Northern Rail Trail for the cost of renting the porta potty at the fire station). Barbara will be working on the website this winter.

Jane Slayton is a host on Pleasant Lake and Nancy Robart on Kezer Lake. Barbara and Ricker Miller will be trained by Earle Chase to test the water.

Bradley Lake Properties discussion/Select Board recommendation: Miranda attended the meeting on the 24th. Miranda showed the Select Board the 2nd conceptual sketch map (12/2025) created for ACC by the surveyors at Daylight Engineering and Surveying. This map included adding property to the current abutter's land to remove the boundary issues (house and well are on town land). The Select Board would like to propose that rather than do a line adjustment to meet the boundary issues, they would prefer to present to the current owners an easement. (Our proposal involved having the current owner agreeing to the plan, the easement would not require the current owner to agree.) The current owner would be given an easement to use the well and use the town land for their house and driveway. If they want to sell it, the easement is included in the sale. The goal of the easement is to allow the town to act unilaterally, the legal costs of setting up the easement will be the town's responsibility. We need to be aware of where the septic and leach field are located. If on Town Land, permission for abutter to use, repair, maintain, and upgrade will need to be in deed. The current owner has been asking for a solution for a while. The Select Board would like to know how we feel about the easement: Motion made by Jesse to work with the SB to explore how this could be done and the issues associated with it (demarcation, location of septic and leach field, and cost of drawing up the easement, etc) We need someone to attend the SB meeting on the 21st: to let them know what we are thinking.

Ditching on Old College Road: Sandra Graves is concerned about the ditching, the road flooding or being undercut, the stone walls possibly collapsing, and damage to the wetlands. (She is also concerned about the gravel on her Maple Street property). Old College Road is listed as a scenic road and scenic roads need special attention – does the highway supervisor know this? Sandra should go to Don Sieburg. Sandra has had good conversations with Jeremy Cornell, Highway Supervisor. Pecco is also concerned about the stone walls and the possible collapse of stones into the roads on Tucker Mountain Road.

Erosion on the rail trail in Wilmot near Eagle Pond at border with Andover. Silt fences appear to be collapsing (this is the property across the street from the Donald Hall property). The erosion appears to be a result of the construction. That area is a prime wetland. We should be reporting concerns to the FNRT if it is affecting the Rail Trail – go to the FNRT website to report it and their volunteers will check it out, do an assessment, do repairs if it is something they can do. Does it reach the level of reporting to DES? Let's wait to hear back from FNRT.

Beaver Deceivers: maintenance: no response from Skip, Jesse will ask Vicky Mishcon to contact Skip.

Recap: Transfer Station, White Oak walk-about: observations in field work notes.

Town Forest updates: Fenton family has land in Fenvale. Nancy T spoke with Les Fenton, land already has conservation deeds, but could be a good town forest. 49.8 acres. We need to talk

with other towns that have town forests and what documentation needs to be done. Les's father has always wanted to have the land as a town forest.

Sooze – other property that could be a potential town forest – the family is working on a survey.

Recap: Green Burial presentation: well attended, panel was great. This is the first time that morticians took part in the panel. Cheri mentioned that there may be a property in Andover that would be appropriate.

Recap: McDonough Trail work: next steps to be discussed next meeting.

Update: McDonough bench: Nancy R spoke with Ricker: we are on our own, we will need to do site clearing, pouring concrete, etc. Ricker will consult with us and give us a to-do list.

May 19th, ZBA at 7:00 meeting to decide on a property across route 11 from the McDonough Property. If they are going to the ZBA they must need a variance, is it because they want to build a single-family home in an agricultural zone? Shouldn't we or ASLPT have been informed. Can we find out the reason why they need to go to the ZBA? Can anyone attend the meeting?

ASLPT request for map of the path up to the Mountain Brook waterfalls – there is no official map, and ASLPT is comfortable with that. Might Susan Schnare have a map? Derek Mansell made a map a long time ago – might he know where the map is?

Meeting adjourned – Motion made at 8:32 by Laurel, seconded by Lee: all in favor.