

Andover Conservation Commission
July 8, 2026
Draft Minutes

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

Also attending: Tristan Rocher, Donna Duclos

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Motion made by Laurel to approve the June amended minutes, seconded by Jesse: all in favor

Email/mail: NHDES notified us via Don Sieburg, Town Administrator, of a couple of wetland violation reports. One from November on the Caron property. The land owner has received letter from DES, wetlands violation without permit – letter dated June 17th. Received notification about the violation report on Applecrest Lane, impacted wetland by clearing land around the wetland. Land use office said they had the paperwork needed to do the work. Land owner did receive a notice of a complaint.

ACC BHBT balance and budget: paid \$150 to ASLPT, \$3460 is left in our budget. We need to have a new treasurer, as Nancy Teach will be moving in a couple of weeks. Work entails getting 2 bank balance reports from Cristy and Elita before the ACC (Andover Conservation Commission) monthly meeting. When we make a payment, a payment voucher is filled out and given to Cristy and a check is cut. Motion made by Jenny to have Laurel become Treasurer; seconded by everyone: all in favor. NH Lakes has requested an annual \$250 donation, motion made by Miranda, seconded by Jesse: all in favor.

ACC memberships (2 open spots) & treasurer position: Laurel is willing to become the new Treasurer. Tina and Jesse need to be reappointed. The Select Board will need to approve at the next week's Thursday meeting, July 15th. Miranda will let the Select Board know that Jesse and Tina will be attending the meeting. Nancy is taking a bit of a leave of absence and will be back soon.

Beaver Deceiver update on required maintenance: no change since last month. Skip knows that we are ready for him to come, we may need to prod him. The funds will not lapse if we don't get him by the end of this fiscal year. We may request a cash reserve from the Budget Committee (per Donna Duclos).

Potential conservation properties/Town Forests: Sooze and Laurel met with Les Fenton at the Fenvale Property that has the wetland/small pond on it. Hiked around it, Les talked about how the land has been cared for over the years. It was lovely and beautiful. The easement is held by the Forest Society. There are brook crossings (natural crossings). Sooze explained that the (official) Town Forest idea entails a lot of extra work that isn't needed because the land is

already conserved. The Town/ACC could take on more “ownership”, talked about various ideas – picnic area, trails etc. What kind of use do we want to encourage? Les was interested in having the school use it – could we put in interpretive signs, etc? There is opportunity for wetland education and observation. What kind of signage might we want to put in? Les would like some help/partnership in taking care of it. Easement includes heron rookery at Fenvale subdivision. Would it make more sense to have a smaller meeting with Les, Laurel, Sooze, Jesse – Jenny has experience from her work for Lebanon. Then drove over to the other non-contiguous spot in the easement– 8 acres on the Fenvale side– near the new bridge. Les was thinking we might be able to get donations to create a parking area there. It could be a kayak launch area. We would need information from DOT about access, egress, parking. It would require some maintenance. It was a good and positive conversation.

Bradley Lake Town Property/Sirard update: Proposal made by Jesse to hire Daylight Engineering and Surveying to visually delineate the property lines, the proposed deeded access lines, and the well and well access lines: Proposal without the well was \$1200. Which we could pay for with our secondary fund (CD account). Motion by Jesse to allow up to \$1500., seconded by Laurel: all in favor

Bradley Lake Property discussion with Don, Miranda, Jesse, Lee – conversation recorded to share with Matt Serge, Town Counsel. We wanted to know if the plan/our recommendation to have deeded access would be feasible and how much it would cost. A question from Don was: how would liability be handled? Would we need the abutter to hold a policy? We do not know if the abutter would be interested in this solution to the property line issues.

Further concerns about this property: stone dust has been installed on the shore (within 50 feet of water). Land owners no longer have to go to Planning Board for an ADU, but do need to go to land management office for a building permit. There might be a need for an upgrade to the septic system if an ADU is built.

McDonough Trail project, discussion on further work and maintenance: Do we want to plan another trail work date? This is a practice/learning year – how often do we need to clear it, can we encourage more people to walk it to help make the trail more visible? It would be good to keep the sign clear.

NH Lakes Lake Friendly Boating: NH Lakes Community presentation at the Hub, Monday, August 3 at 6:00 pm:

McDonough bench update (redistribution of tasks): What exactly do we need to tell the two approved contractors/bidders for site preparation/installation of the bench? Clearly, a flat area for the bench needs to be created (crushed rock?), allow the bench to be able to be secured (concrete with steel ring to secure a chain to bench?) We need to follow the FNRT /Trails Bureau requirements – how far off the trail etc. Perhaps we need to get more information from Don Moyer re: the details? See copy of email from Ricker Miller below. Donna will help with contacting Jon Champagne. The area for the location of the bench is still clearly marked.

Discussion to potentially change meeting date – changing our meeting time will help both Jenny and Miranda with other commitments. Possible 1st, 3rd, or 4th Wednesday, or the 1st or 2nd Monday or the 2nd Thursday: Motion made by Miranda to change our meeting date to the 2nd Thursday of the month starting in August, 13th 2026, seconded by Jenny: all in favor.

Motion made by Miranda, seconded by Janny to close the meeting at 8:30 pm: all in favor.

E-mail from Ricker Miller – re needs for the bench on the McDonough easement.

This outline provides you with information the Andover Conservation Commission will need to install the commemorative bench in the location previously reviewed on the Northern Rail Trail. It is my understanding through my discussion with Don Moyer / Acting President for the Northern Rail Trail that Shawn Violette / District Supervisor for the New Hampshire Bureau of Trails has already approved installation of the Bench at the site we reviewed South of Dyers Crossing in Andover. The following steps need to followed:

- The bench will be placed no closer than 12' from the center line of the trail".
- If any contractor is used on this project the contractor needs a certificate of insurance showing the NH Bureau of Trails as the Certificate Holder.
- If digging of any kind is to be done Dig Safe has to be contacted at 811 or 888-344-7233 to request a utility mark out and approval for digging prior to that work starting. This includes digging with a shovel. **Note:** There is fiberoptic cable running along the side of the Northern Rail Trail right of way.
- No alteration in trail drainage systems i.e. culverts, drainage ditches are allowed.
- provide the FNRT Board with any final plans or project description through me (Ricker Miller) prior to construction.