

Brentwood Conservation Commission

May 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Vice Chair Lise McNaughton, Secretary Michelle Siudut, Rob Wofchuck, Jeff Dvorak, Heather Dudley-Tatman, BOS representative David Menter

Alternates present: Chris Gnip, Andy Laroche

McNaughton called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Motion by Siudut, seconded by Menter, to allow Andy Laroche to be a voting member; passed 6-0.

Minutes

Motion by Wofchuck, seconded by Laroche to approve the minutes from April 8, 2026; passed 7-0-1 (Wofchuck abstaining)

Bills and Reimbursements

Motion by Wofchuck, seconded by Dvorak to reimburse Emma Lahan for \$59.97 for gloves purchased for town clean up.

Motion by Menter, seconded by Dvorak to reimburse Wofchuck for \$68.40 for name tags.

Motion by Wofchuck, seconded by Menter to reimburse consultant Anna Boudreau for \$544.99.

Motion by Wofchuck, seconded by Dvorak to approve payment in the amount of \$68.50 to town/Union Leader for the required hearing posting in the Union Leader.

New Business

a. Mill Road Dam Presentation. In attendance were Andrew Fisk, American Rivers NE regional director; Emily Nichols, NHDES ARM Fund Program Manager; and Bill Thomas, DES Dam Removal and Restoration program.

Naoto Inoue currently owns Mill Road dam through an LLC, but he no longer wants it. The dam is not functional and has been partially removed; the state wants it completely removed. American Rivers will help raise funds to design and engineer removal of the dam.

Engineering design is in process; actual removal will not happen until at least 2027. Funding will come from USDA, NHARM and USFW. Emily said ARM has committed \$675,000 for removal and monitoring for ecological benefits, pending approval by Gov's Council.

Committee members' questions: does this property fit into our Open Space requirements; seeking an understanding of federal mitigation requirements; what is the wetland area protection/restoration after dam removal; who owns land around the area; if the town took possession of the land, what would requirements/liability be. Emily said any long-term care would be included in the original cost; DES would have 3rd party rights for any violations (such as other people doing damage). Transfer of ownership of the land would not occur until the dam removal and remediation were complete. A stewardship fund may be developed.

Fisk will keep us updated through the process.

- b. Public Hearing. At 7:19 pm the public hearing was opened regarding funding the Slye Conservation Easement. Wofchuck reviewed the project details. It is 55 acres; high priority; in coastal conservation land; close to many other conserved lands; prime soil. An appraisal determined an easement value of \$310,000, with a total cost estimate of \$387,000. SELT will seek \$55,000 in potential grants. Discussed/confirmed applicability to Open Space Bond approved in 2022. There are current bonds that will be maturing: \$240,000 in Aug 2027 and another \$97,000 in 2028. The closing on this easement is not expected until mid 2027, with the first bond payment being due in early 2028. BudCom Chair confirmed the timing of this would fit under the 4% tax cap, due to the other bonds maturing. The Slyes have signed P&S with SELT (including draft easement), contingent on town funding. The next step is presentation to Selectboard and signature of funding agreement.
Motion by Wofchuck, seconded by Dvorak, to authorize utilization of up to \$387,000 of Open Space Bond, and forward such recommendation to the Selectboard for approval; passed 8-0
Motion by Menter, seconded by Wofchuck, to close public hearing at 7:58 pm; approved 8-0.
- c. NHDES Instream Flow Program. Wofchuck spoke on this. The Exeter River is a protected river under the NH River Management and Protection Program. DES will be doing an analysis of some protected rivers, including the Exeter River. There is no cost to the town for analysis or management plan. Motion by Wofchuck, seconded by Dvorak, to recommend the town of Brentwood send a letter of support to DES, recommending the Exeter River be the next priority river chosen, passed 8-0.

Old Business

a. Member Updates.

Laham was not present but offered the following via email:

*thanked everyone involved in Community Cleanup. Bags and gloves are still available.

Feedback for next year is welcome.

*she passed the Coverts project.

*she would like to start an Instagram page for ConCom. There is no language in town policy regarding this. Members supporting establishing an Instagram page, and crossposting with Facebook.

*Trail Passport is being finalized.

*very impressive Facebook stats were shared.

*Laham would like ConCom website page updated, last news is 2015.

Open Space. Will be following up with the Swaseys and Anna Boudreau regarding Swasey property. A meeting is being scheduled with another landowner interested in conservation. Dvorak asked about getting a revised/updated map of conserved lands - Wofchuck suggested contacting Rob Pruyne at Rockingham Planning Commission to print a large map and also provide an electronic version.

Speakers. Gnip is working on a speaker for the July meeting.

Land Management. McNaughton and Dudley-Tatman will be walking Nooney-Munger to establish land management goals.

Motion by Siudut, seconded by Dvorak to adjourn at 8:06 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, June 10 at 6:30 pm at Town Office

Wednesday, July 8 at 6:30 pm at Town Office

Wednesday, Aug 12 at 6:30 pm at Town Office

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Secretary