

Town of Winchester
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
June 2, 2026 - 5:00 PM
Town of Winchester Town Hall
338 Main Street – 2nd Floor – P. Francis Hicks Conference Room
MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Renee Waldron calls the meeting to order at 5:06 PM. In attendance: Sally Chesney, Jen Perga, Addie Mehl, and Tom Carter. Absent: Kevin Burgio and Amanda Hill

2. Public Comment - None

3. Agenda Review - No changes; motion by Tom, seconded by Sally. Vote: Unanimous.

4. Minutes Approval - No changes to May 5, 2026 minutes; motion by Tom, seconded by Addie. Vote: Unanimous.

5. New Business

A. Tort Museum tent:

WCC will share a tent with Winchester Land Trust at the The American Museum of Tort Law's Farmers Market on June 13th from 9am - 2pm. Renee will provide the tent, and Renee and Jen will provide tables. Will have the same tabling materials as the Fall Festival focusing primarily on invasives. Sally, Tom, Jen, Renee, and Addie will be there from the start to help set up. Renee emailed Terry Hall about holding CC items at town hall to be easily accessed by all for events.

B. RRD1 Table:

Sally and Jen will have a table at RRD1 on June 27th from about 10am-12pm. Will converse with visitors about invasives and recycling options.

C. Facebook invasive info:

Addie has created the graphic overview info slide to use on FB to create informative posts on invasives. Sally will pull together specific info for each invasive. Though the idea before was to do an invasive monthly, posts will instead be created as the opportunity arises and based on the CIPWG invasive management calendar. Posts will contain the graphic, more in-depth information and resources as necessary and will be sent to other commissioners before posting. Sally has already put together info for the first invasive: knotweed. Addie will fill out a graphic slide and send it to others to be posted shortly.

D. Conservation Board Info Sheet:

Addie will work on CC Info Sheet (maybe postcard) to hand out at tabling events to people interested in what a CC does and hopefully inspire people to get involved and show up at meetings. Renee wants Tshirts and might work on getting some for CC members to wear at events.

6. Old Business

A. Banning Rodenticide:

Jen and others were inspired by other towns banning rodenticides in municipal spaces. Considering presenting to town the benefits of banning rodenticides (i.e. not harming other wildlife in the food

chain). Should have safe, low-cost, environmentally-friendly alternatives to consider. Addie will look into alternatives that she recently found out about.

B. VoxBox project suggestions:

VoxBox is a national program to get HS students involved in civic projects. Renee emailed Melissa Bird at the American Museum of Tort Law to see if VoxBox is running this year, if they need ideas for projects, and to follow-up on the River Smart Pledge. Further consideration should be given to students painting on storm drains (“drains to river”).

C. River Smart Pledge compliance:

See Above.

D. Multi-town Japanese Knotweed/ Invasive Plant Management

Knotheads continue to meet once a month. Other towns are sending letters to private residents about knotweed on property, coordinating with town officials, etc. WCC hasn’t planned to do anything else about knotweed this year since failing to receive a grant for knotweed management. Will pursue having state rd. invasive spraying done, though. Addie and Sally will edit their iNaturalist entries of knotweed that occur on state roads (183, 44, 800, 263), so Tom can put together a map for state spraying. Each stand must then be indicated with pink ribbon.

E. Sue Grossman Ad Hoc Committee:

The committee chair was in the room at the time. The committee continues to wait for word on funding, as well as a survey that has been done but not yet accessed that will indicate which private properties still require easements to proceed, etc.

F. Bar Grant update:

No update past last month’s.

G. Publicizing Conservation Commission Events/ Facebook:

Anyone can post about events freely. Educational posts to be “fact-checked” by at least one other member of commission. Sally and Addie to work on “monthly invasive” educational posts on FB. Addie will create event posts about tabling at the Tort Museum Farmers Market and RRDD1 tabling.

H. Chartered Commission Status:

There are standards recommended by the state that the commission intends to uphold, such as compiling inventories of natural resources and species of special concern. Kevin will advise on and create such inventories and maps. Sally suggested referring to CC tasks listed in Municipal Plans of Conservation and Development that are updated every 10 years. Will also look into coordinating with other commissions.

7. **Communications:** N/A

8. **Other Business:** N/A

9. **Adjourn**

Tom moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 PM, which was seconded by Jen and unanimously approved by the board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Addie Mehl, Secretary