

Town of Winchester
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
August 4, 2026 - 5:00 PM
Town of Winchester Town Hall
338 Main Street – 2nd Floor – P. Francis Hicks Conference Room
Meeting - MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Renee Waldron calls the meeting to order at 5:09 PM. In attendance: Sally Chesney, Renee Waldron, Tom Carter, and Jen Perga. Absent: Addie Mehl and Amanda Hill

2. Public Comment -None

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

4. Minutes Approval- July 7, 2026 minutes. No changes; motion to approve the minutes by Jen, seconded by Tom. Vote: Unanimous.

5. New Business

- A. Accept the resignation of Kevin Burgio with regret.
- B. Supply inventory/WCC bins: CC members need a little more information before moving forward. Where will storage area be located? Are there days/times when town hall is closed and we can't get supplies? We will go through the inventory at the next meeting.
- C. WCC Budget Funds & WCC Treasurer: Tabled until next meeting.
- D. Town seeking RFPs for invasive species removal: Tom explained that technically this is an RFQ (request for qualifications) and the town is researching vendor who will map and eradicate invasives for up to 6 years. Other board members have noticed that spraying is occurring on state and town roads. Unfortunately, native plants are inadvertently getting sprayed too.

6. Old Business

- A. Plan for Fall cleanup: Tom is working with Planning Office to get better maps and possibly printed cards with a route for volunteers.
- B. Banning Rodenticide: Cassandra McKenna, a volunteer, is working with towns to find alternatives to poisons that transfer to raptors and mammals that eat rodents. She met with citizens and the town manager.
- C. Knotweed and other invasives: Sally and Tom continue to meet with the "knotheads" and stay up-to-date on initiatives in towns around us.
- D. Sue Grossman and BAR updates: no news on Sue Grossman. BAR grant, initial presentation about possibilities for Brownfield buildings along the Mad River, will be at Little Red Barn on Thursday, August 6.

7. Communications:

- A. Kevin Burgio resignation. (see above)

- B. Jen reported about a meeting on July 27 with Winchester Center neighbors and town officials to discuss illegal shooting, ATV and dirtbike riding, and dumping.
- C. Rene – closet space at town hall (see above)
- D. Tom – rodenticide (see above)
- E. Tom – BAR grant (see above)
- F. Sally – New England Native Plant Rescue – Sally was contacted by the NENPR which plans to remove native plants from land that will be cleared for development and transfer them to other areas.
- G. Tom – Paul Harrington WCC Fund Discussion – Tom prepared a letter asking for \$1,000 from the “nip fund” to pay for grabbers, fluorescent vests, snacks for volunteers and other cleanup expenses.

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

9. Adjourn

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Perga, Secretary