

TOWN OF FITZWILLIAM

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, July 20, 2026

7:00 PM

Members Present: Paul Kotila, chair; Kevin Woolley; Susan Silverman; Beth Vanney; Matt Buonomano; Terri Robbitts, alternate; and Martin Nolan, Selectmen's Representative.

Members Absent: Hiel Lindquist; and Corinne Marcou.

Staff Present: Lori Nolan, LUC.

Guests Present: Rebecca Lawrence

Chairman Paul Kotila called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

With one member absent, alternate Terri Robbitts was seated as a commission member.

APPOINTMENTS: none

OLD BUSINESS:

Review of Minutes:

After a brief discussion and several clarifying edits, **Mr. Woolley motioned to approve the minutes of June 15, 2026 as amended. Mr. Buonomano seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

Yes: 6 [Kotila; Woolley; Silverman; Vanney; Buonomano; Robbitts]; No: 0; Abstained: 0

Natural Resource Inventory: no update. Mr. Kotila will follow up with Moosewood.

ON-GOING BUSINESS

Budget: The 2027 proposed budget is due August 24. The Commission did not have any suggestions outside of the norm and the Katie Metzger parking lot.

Stone Pond Dam Removal: Mr. M. Nolan commented that engineering continues. The culverts on Templeton Turnpike are showing signs of failure.

Schupack Easement:

Mr. Buonomano felt a short, simple fix to the red trail is signage indicating where private property begins. The long-term solution is to move the trail onto Town property. Mr. Kotila commented that there must be a land management plan prior to any major adjustments.

Ms. Lawrence updated the Commission on atv activity. Individuals are accessing the trails through private property and also at the bottom of the ski hill off Richmond Road. There has been no activity since Fitzwilliam Police and NH Fish & Game got involved.

The Commission suggested signs be placed on Richmond Road stating no motorized vehicles are allowed. Mr. Buonomano commented that there used to be snow fences, which helped with access. Mr. M. Nolan suggested that EMS be updated on where the best access points are.

Ms. L. Nolan is to obtain quotes for signage, using the Katie Metzger and Widow Gage signs as examples.

Mr. Buonomano suggested that the Commission walk the property to better understand it. He will organize the walk to take place before the next meeting in August. Ms. Silverman commented that Rindge Conservation do various guided hikes to introduce the public to properties.

Town Forests (Widow Gage and Katie Metzger):

Mr. Kotila joined Monadnock Conservancy on their annual easement monitoring site walks on July 2. The group did not observe any problems. Unfortunately, there will be no report given from the walk.

Mr. Lindquist will be leading two guided hikes. On August 29, they will walk through Widow Gage; while on October 3, they will hike Little Monadnock.

Mr. Kotila has sent the State Forester the letter on the Widow Gage Road work not being completed following the logging operation in Rhododendron State Park.

It was reported there is a lot of dog waste on the Katie Metzger trails.

Trail Maintenance: The Commission discussed obtaining lumber from Damon Lumber. This will replace the first crossing on the blue trail in Widow Gage.

Site Walks: none.

Monadnock Advisory Committee: none

Dog Waste: A wasp nest was discovered and has since been taken care of.

Invasive Species:

Ms. Vanney gave a hands-on demonstration of glossy buckthorn during the Farmer's Market. It was well received with a lot of engagement.

Glossy Buckthorn is taking over Scott Brook by Templeton Turnpike. Ms. Vanney has been able to clear a 40-foot area.

Community Power: no update

Water District: no update.

Other Business:

Private Well Water Testing: Amy Hudnor, NHDES, will provide a presentation on July 23 at 6:30pm that will be approximately 30-45 minutes long. Ms. Nolan will bring water samples to the lab Monday through Thursday at 3:00pm. The Commission reported a good turn-out at the Farmer's Market when advertising the event.

Laurel Lake Association Stormwater Management Grant: NH Lakes will present on August 8 at 10:00am on Soak Up the Rain and shoreline management. The Commission requested that Woodbrook be invited to the presentation.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Nolan
Land Use Coordinator

Minutes approved as written on August 17, 2026.