

Hollis Conservation Commission

Minutes of the August 5, 2026 Meeting
Approved as amended, September 2, 2026

Regular Members Present: Joe Connelly, Karen Bridgeo, Bernadette McQuilkin, Peter Band
Alternate Members Present: Tony Fowler, Holly Park

J. Connelly started the meeting at 6:32 pm.

J. Connelly appointed T. Fowler to vote in-place of Mark Post and H. Park to vote in-place of Thom Davies.

WALKER TREE FARM PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with RSA 36-A:5 and RSA 675:7, the Hollis Conservation Commission is conducting this Public Hearing for the purpose of obtaining public input regarding the expenditure of \$585,000 of conservation funds for the purchase of the property identified as Hollis MBLU 032-009 containing 43.282 acres, and owned by Clifford Walker and Ellen Jones-Walker. This land is located at the intersection of Pine Hill and Nartoff Roads in Hollis, New Hampshire.

J. Connelly motioned to open the public hearing; T. Fowler seconded the motion. Voting in favor were J. Connelly, K. Bridgeo, B. McQuilkin, P. Band, T. Fowler and H. Park; none opposed or abstained. Motion carried 6-0-0 and the Public Hearing was opened.

J. Connelly presented the 43.282 acre property in question. The lot consists of a productive tree farm, and is contiguous with the Stefanowicz Farm parcel. The property has approximately a mile of frontage on Nartoff and Pine Hill Roads, and is almost entirely wooded. A PSNH easement bisects the property, with logs blocking off access for random visitors, but PSNH and the forester, Craig Birch, can access it. The following uses will not be allowed on the property: snowmachines; motorized biking; bicycles; overnight camping; campfires; target shooting; hunting; or recreational development per the seller's requirements. The property price is \$585,000, or \$13,516 per acre, for a fee-simple deed to the HCC. The property will be known as the "Dick & Arlean Walker Woods."

J. Connelly opened the meeting for Public Comment by stating: "This public hearing is to allow abutters, town residents, and other interested parties to offer comments for the Conservation Commission to consider in making decisions. While speaking, please be specific to the course of action you wish the Conservation Commission to take regarding your opinion. Please tell us if you are in favor or opposed, and tell us why. Speakers may comment for 2 minutes, All speakers will speak from the podium and must state their name and address. Comments will be addressed to the Conservation Commission, and the speaker will not engage or debate other speakers or members of the public. The meeting is now open for public comment."

There were no members of the public present, thus no public comment.

J. Connelly motioned to close the public hearing; B. McQuilkin seconded the motion. Voting in favor were J. Connelly, K. Bridgeo, B. McQuilkin, P. Band, T. Fowler and H. Park; none opposed or abstained. Motion carried 6-0-0 and the Public Hearing was closed.

DISCUSSION

J. Connelly noted that there would be an additional \$10,000-\$20,000 in fees.

VOTE TO EXPEND

J. Connelly motioned to approve the expenditure of \$585,000 to Clifford Walker and Ellen Jones-Walker for the purchase of MBLU 032-009 containing 43.282 acres and located at the intersection of Pine Hill and Nartoff Roads seconded by P. Band. Voting in favor were J. Connelly, K. Bridgeo, B. McQuilkin, P. Band, T. Fowler and H. Park; none opposed or abstained. The motion to expend carried by a vote of 6-0-0.

The HCC thanked the Walker's for their contribution to the Conservation Commission.

COMMITTEE & BOARD UPDATES

There were no Committee or Board Updates available at meeting time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Beaver Deceiver Invoice - J. Connelly

The HCC received two \$200 invoices for beaver deceivers. The authorized amount of \$1000 covered the \$400 total.

60 *SNH Land Services Reimbursement - J. Connelly*
61 The HCC closed on the DePaulis easement for 9 acres in center of town. SNH Land Services filed the plan and invoiced the HCC
62 for \$200.
63 *J. Connelly motioned to pay SNH Land Services \$200 for filing the deed on the DePaulis Easement; P. Band seconded*
64 *the motion. All in favor, none opposed or abstained. Vote carried 6-0-0.*
65
66 *Eric Radloff Bill - J. Connelly*
67 E. Radloff assessed 6 parcels of HCC land amounting in \$360.
68 *P. Band motioned to expend \$360 to pay E. Radloff for Invasives assessment; K. Bridgeo seconded the motion. All in*
69 *favor, none opposed or abstained. Vote carried 6-0-0.*
70
71 *Appraisal on Walker Parcel - J. Connelly*
72 J. Connelly noted that the appraisal aids in the buying process. The current quote for the appraisal of the Walker parcel is \$3,000.
73 *J. Connelly motioned to expend \$3000 for the appraisal of the Walker property; seconded by T. Fowler. All in favor,*
74 *none opposed or abstained. Vote carried 6-0-0.*
75 The appraiser hopes to be done by early October.
76
77 *Title Search - J. Connelly*
78 Connie Cain tracked the property deeds back to the early 1900's but an official title search must be conducted.
79 *P. Band motioned to expend funds for title search for an amount not to exceed \$3,000 to Sweeney & Sweeney of Nashua,*
80 *NH; Seconded by J. Connelly. All in favor, none opposed or abstained. Vote carried 6-0-0.*
81
82 *Letter to Amherst Planning Board - J. Connelly*
83 Mark Post wrote a letter on behalf of the HCC asking the Amherst Planning Board to pay close attention to buffers. Kevin
84 Anderson of the Hollis Planning Office has reviewed the letter.
85
86 *Silver Lake - B. McQuilkin*
87 B. McQuilkin shared her idea about having a rain garden at the State Park, which would have an education aspect, encouraging
88 lakefront property owners to utilize plants that would help stop erosion. This is a potential project for a \$10,000 grant.
89
90 *Pitch Pine Stand, Rideout Road - K. Bridgeo*
91 K. Bridgeo suggested that they alert Craig Birch about a Pitch Pine stand on Rideout by the river so as to avoid disturbance while
92 cutting in that area.
93
94 **NEW/CONTINUING BUSINESS**
95
96 *Landscape Management Software - H. Park*
97 *Law Property - H. Park* put the photos of T. Fowler's work onto the software. T. Fowler cut down trees so people have a clear
98 path to the rookery. Ben Thyng suggested mowing in September, along with marking the trail, and had texted J. Connelly that he
99 will have a potential trail map in September for the property.
100
101 The HCC will be including E. Radloff's assessments into the software, as well as various invoices to track how much money is
102 spent on management.
103
104 There is an old dead ash tree on the Old City Trail. There was brief discussion on what vendor would take care of that tree.
105
106 The discussion was tabled until September's meeting in order to get more information.
107
108 *Property Maintenance - J. Connelly*
109 HCC will be holding a Site Walk on Monday, August 24, 2026 at 5:00 pm on property known as the "Wright Nashua River Lot,
110 MBLU 005-020, near Runnells Bridge Road; Kathi Lewis walks the property frequently and will accompany the HCC. This will
111 be posted on the HCC website.
112
113 There should be an additional site walk on the Worcester Conservation Land that abuts the Keyes Hill Road – Lorenzos Lane
114 subdivision. T. Davies will lead walk from the back of his house on Forest View Drive. This still needs to be scheduled but should
115 be done before November 1, 2026.

116 *Hollis-Brookline High School Conservation Easement*
117 P. Band shared that there were ongoing discussions surrounding 3 key issues with the Hollis-Brookline High School:
118 1.) Water runoff;
119 2.) Backstop in 100-foot buffer;
120 3.) Porta Potties within the buffer.
121 Due to a lack of feedback, P. Band called the School Superintendent. The first issue is in process. The backstop is a non-starter
122 due to the costs. The superintendent wants to move the field, but due to the expensive nature, that will not be possible for a while.
123 The superintendent was open to getting together with several members of the HCC to get a collaborative effort going with a site
124 walk. J. Connelly agreed with the caveat that the Facilities Manager & Director, Lance Finamore, also attend the meeting.
125
126 *Old Home Days - J. Connelly*
127 Old Home Days is September 18-19, 2026.
128 There isn't a big theme this year. The main plan is to be at the booth and give people information on conservation and what they
129 can and can't do on conservation land.
130
131 *Dufresne Memorial Bench - K. Bridgeo*
132 K. Bridgeo shared the dates that Martha Dufresne gave regarding Tom Dufresne memorial. It was decided that the dedication
133 would be held on September 12, 2026 at 11:00 am.
134
135 **MINUTES**
136 Both public and non-public meeting minutes of July 15, 2026 were tabled to the next meeting.
137
138 **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**
139 *B. McQuilkin motioned to enter into non-public session, as per RSA 91-A:3, II (d); seconded by J. Connelly. Members*
140 *were polled, voting in favor of entering into Non-Public Session were J. Connelly, P. Band, K. Bridgeo, B. McQuilkin, T.*
141 *Fowler and H. Park; no members opposed or abstaining. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0-0 and the HCC entered*
142 *into Non-Public Session at 7:58 pm.*
143
144 **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**
145 *B. McQuilkin motioned to enter into non-public session, as per RSA 91-A:3, II (d); seconded by J. Connelly. Members*
146 *were polled, voting in favor of entering into Non-Public Session were J. Connelly, P. Band, K. Bridgeo, B. McQuilkin, T.*
147 *Fowler and H. Park; no members opposed or abstaining. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0-0 and the HCC entered*
148 *into Non-Public Session at approximately 8:15 pm.*
149
150 **ADJOURNMENT**
151 *J. Connelly motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by K. Bridgeo. All members in favor; none opposed or abstained;*
152 *the motion carried by a vote of 6-0-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.*
153
154 Respectfully Submitted,
155 Amiee Le Doux
156 Recording Secretary