

TOWN OF FITZWILLIAM

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, June 15, 2026
7:00 PM

Members Present: Paul Kotila, chair; Hiel Lindquist; Kevin Woolley; Susan Silverman; Beth Vanney; and Matt Buonomano.

Members Absent: Corinne Marcou; Terri Robbitts, alternate; and Martin Nolan, Selectmen's Representative.

Staff Present: Lori Nolan, LUC.

Guests Present:

Chairman Paul Kotila called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

APPOINTMENTS: none

OLD BUSINESS:

Review of Minutes:

Mr. Lindquist motioned to approve the minutes of May 18, 2026 as written. Mr. Woolley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

ON-GOING BUSINESS

Budget: no update.

Stone Pond Dam Removal: Mr. Kotila has communicated with Mount Grace Land Trust, the primary holder of the future easement. Because ARM funds are being used, the State will be a secondary holder. The Town would like the easement to have no restrictions and its use to be passive recreation land. However, the ARM funds will have some restrictions. The Town has no control over the negotiations but all parties are including the Town in discussions. Mr. Lindquist noted that there should be no language precluding normal recreational activities. Ms. Vanney commented that one abutter had concerns about their well and the water source after the dam has been removed.

Schupack Easement: Mr. Buonomano felt that long term, the red trail should be moved.

Town Forests (Widow Gage and Katie Metzger): Both forests are in good shape. The mountain laurels are in bloom right now and it appears that this year will be a good year for them.

Trail Maintenance: Ms. Nolan gave an update on the Katie Metzger parking lot development. She will split the project into two quotes – tree cutting and site work – as most companies specialize in one or the other. The Commission requested quotes by the next meeting.

Site Walks: none.

Monadnock Advisory Committee: none

Dog Waste: There is not much activity lately.

Invasive Species:

Mr. Kotila commented that the trees are still infested with beech leaf disease but the understory within Katie Metzger is coming back.

The Commission was anxious to receive the updated tree health report to see if the cold winter affected the woolly adelgid at all.

The powerlines corridor and Scott Brook along Templeton Turnpike are heavily infested with buckthorn.

Purple Loosestrife begins flowering the first of July. Ms. Nolan is to post the flyer requesting the public's help in cutting the blooms to prevent further spread.

Community Power: no update

Water District: no update.

Other Business:

Peter Smith easement: The conservation easement with Monadnock Conservancy has been finalized. This land is located on the north slope of the Pinnacle (being called as Pinnacle Slope).

Private Well Water Testing: Amy Hudnor from NHDES will present on July 23 at 6:30pm. Testing kits from Nelson Analytical will be on hand. They will provide the same reduced pricing from 2022. Ms. Nolan will request if the Laurel Lake Association and the Recreation Department can help promote 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 both events be promoted during the July 18 Farmer's Market.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Nolan
Land Use Coordinator

Minutes approved as amended on July 20, 2026.