MINUTES

Town of Waterville Valley Conservation Commission

August 27, 2026

Town Hall Meeting Room

1. Meeting called to order at 1:09 pm.
   Paul Ricotta (chair), Charles Hastings (vice-chair/secretary), Irit Levy (member), John Recine (PB ex-officio), Cliff Lubitz on Zoom (member)

2. Minutes July 9, 2026 reviewed and approved. Moved by Irit, seconded by John.

3. Privilege of the Floor: none.

4. Town Updates:
   Steve Royer was asked for an update on the **13-acre, Lot 23** that was donated to the Town. It is being used as a staging area for fill and equipment needed for the work on Boulder Path. It was noted that heavy vehicle traffic to and from Lot 23 has inflicted some damage to West Branch Road. Soil testing has been done in part of the lot, but the results have yet to be reported.

   The Commission was informed that a spring construction date for the Snows Brook Remediation would not be problematic from a fiscal perspective because the funds approved by the 2026 Town Meeting can be carried forward into 2027.

5. Planning Board Update
   John reported that the **Landscaping Working Group** met again on July 23 and developed a 4th draft of Town Landscaping Regulations, in coordination with the North Country Council. These regulations are advisory in nature and intended to provide guidance to the planning board in its review of proposals for further development in the valley. A public hearing is scheduled for September 3 at 6 PM to gather feedback on these regulations. If approved, the project will be undertaken in the spring of 2027.

6. Old Business:
   a. **Snows Brook Remediation** Project Update
      Paul reported that Rick Van de Poll met with Forest Service representatives in July to finalize details for submission as a fall small project, and the Town has subsequently signed off on this. The next step as required by the Forest Service will be a site visit sometime in September by Rick and representatives of the Forest Service and Town. They will visit key locations in the lower part of the valley where much of the work will be done, similar to the site visit done a few years ago.

   b. Master Plan Action Plan: **Website update**

Paul reported that the Town now has the new software needed for a major upgrade. Cliff developed a detailed plan for new content to be uploaded into multiple pages covering key conservation topics we wish to make accessible to the community. This plan was distributed to the full commission a couple of weeks ago. Further work will have to be done on this before it can be finalized and turned over to the Town webmaster.

c. **Natural Resource Inventory.** The 2020 inventory by Rick Van de Poll was quite exhaustive and needs a few minor revisions to be updated. The Commission does not consider this an urgent priority and is delaying action on it for now.

d. **Municipal Solid Waste** Working Group Update

Irit reported that the Town will discontinue servicing dumpsters in private condominiums on December 1, after which all solid waste must be taken in person to the transfer station. The Town is considering purchasing two trash compactors, constructing a ramp and shed to expedite drop-off, and providing a bin for single-stream recycling. These improvements will be addressed at the 2027 Town Meeting. Meanwhile, the first of two public hearings on trash is scheduled for August 29 at 6 pm.

7. New Business
   a. WV Conservation Commission Handbook. Working with online resources available from the state and other NH conservation commissions, Cliff has developed a draft handbook covering a wide range of conservation topics. It was electronically distributed to members just prior to this meeting. Discussion of the organization and contents of this handbook will begin at our next meeting, along with considerations of how best to make use of this valuable resource.

   b. **WVCC membership**. There is an opening for at least one alternate. Discussion of changes to our meeting time will await recruitment of new members.

   c. Charles recommends that Cliff Lubitz be considered for the position of **Vice Chair**. Further action will be delayed till next meeting to give Cliff time to think about it.

8. **Next meeting**: Thursday, September 24 at 1:00 pm.

9. Adjourned at 2:16 pm. Moved by Charles, seconded by Irit.

"We are located on N'dakinna, which is the traditional ancestral homeland of the Abenaki, Pennacook, and Wabanaki Peoples, past and present. We acknowledge and honor with gratitude the land and waterways and the alnobak (people) who have stewarded N'dakinna throughout the generations."