

TOWN OF FITZWILLIAM

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, August 17, 2026

7:00 PM

Members Present: Paul Kotila, chair; Hiel Lindquist; Kevin Woolley; Beth Vanney; and Martin Nolan, Selectmen's Representative.

Members Absent: Susan Silverman; Matt Buonomano; Corinne Marcou; and Terri Robbitts, alternate.

Staff Present: Lori Nolan, LUC.

Guests Present: Chuck Tidman; and Tracey Mendes.

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

APPOINTMENTS:

E. Charles Tidman III – to discuss construction of a 263 square foot rear deck within the WPOD (70 feet, where 100 feet is required) at 45 Pine Road. [Map 35, Lot 27 – Rural District]

Mr. Kotila welcomed Chuck Tidman and Tracey Mendes to the meeting. Mr. Tidman explained that they would like to add a rear deck to their waterfront property. The closest corner of the deck will be 70 feet to the pond. They have already received an approved variance from the ZBA and shoreland permit from NHDES.

Mr. Tidman stated that the State shoreland permit requires a gravel apron at least one foot deep in depth around the deck with plantings on the pond side. On the left side of the proposed stairs is an existing rain garden. Currently the roof run-off sheds toward the pond. Mr. Tidman is concerned about installing gutters as the road side of the house is prone to ice dams. This is a seasonal house with limited insulation.

Mr. Kotila explained the role of the Conservation Commission. The Commission will likely recommend erosion control off the deck, gutters on the pond side leading into a drywell(s), the deck does not become an impervious surface, there are spacing between the deck boards (0.25 inch), and adding native plants on the shoreline.

Ms. Mendes commented that the State provided a lot of information on what to plant.

The Conservation Commission will send its recommendations to the Planning Board prior to the scheduled public hearing.

OLD BUSINESS:

Review of Minutes:

Mr. Linquist motioned to approve the minutes of July 20, 2026 as written. Mr. Woolley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Yes: 4 [Kotila; Lindquist; Woolley; Vanney]; 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. A CIP request for \$10,000 for land conservation has been previously submitted.

Stone Pond Dam Removal: no update.

Schupack Easement:

Mr. Kotila confirmed that signs have been installed saying no ATV activity allowed. Mr. Nolan explained that he is working on a new gate for at the bottom of the hill by Richmond Road. He felt that a farm gate with better posts would be more appropriate than a cable. The pasture was mowed last week.

Mr. Kotila felt that a new section of the red trail needs to be roughed out so that the trail can be moved off private property. In the meantime, Ms. Nolan was asked to obtain quotes on signs.

Mr. Nolan commented that the Recreation Commission is interested in the creation of about six parking spots at the bottom on the ski hill.

Town Forests (Widow Gage and Katie Metzger):

Widow Gage: there is a guided historic hike scheduled for August 31 at 8:30am.

Katie Metzger: the orange trail has been reflagged. A previously discovered tree stand is still present. Fish & Game have been contacted. Ms. Vanney questioned if utilizing the State's seedling program to rebuild the understory is a priority. The Commission discussed this program and determined rebuilding the understory from wooly adelgid damage was not a top priority. The mature hemlocks survived and the top portions are re-bounding. The Commission felt they should let nature run its course before intervention.

Trail Maintenance:

Widow Gage: the first bridge is broken. Four 2 in x 6 in x 8 ft are needed. The Commission would like to repair this prior to the guided hike. No other issues have been reported or discovered.

Site Walks: none.

Monadnock Advisory Committee: There will be a walk on forest management on August 19 on the Marlborough Trail.

Dog Waste: There was a suggestion to install an additional dog waste container for Katie Metzger Forest once the parking lot is finished.

Invasive Species:

Ms. Vanney stated that the marsh across the street from the Common has purple loosestrife growing within the cattails. This is a new area of growth that was not present last year. Ms. Nolan is to send out a letter to property owners on the Common and the Depot marshes requesting that they cut the blooms off purple loosestrife.

Bittersweet and glossy buckthorn was the worst invasive species affecting our area.

Community Power: no update

Water District: no update.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Nolan
Land Use Coordinator

Minutes approved as amended on September 21, 2026.