

Minutes of the Bethlehem Conservation Commission
Thursday, July 16, 2026, 5pm
Library Meeting Room

Attendees: Cheryl Jensen, Joanne Jones, Colin Lunetta, Rachelle Lyons, Veronica Morris, Christopher Jensen (alternate), Ivan Ash (Alternate)

The meeting was called to order at 5:03pm.

Christopher Jensen and Ivan Ash were appointed as full members.

1. Minutes: June 18, 2026

Three typographical changes were made to the minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes as amended: Veronica

Seconded: Joanne

Approved: Unanimous

2. Shoreland permit application on River Road:

The application was approved without incorporating any comments from the BCC.

Chris Jensen suggested that BCC send a letter to DES for feedback on our permit review to see if there is something that we should have done differently,

Motion to send letter: Veronica

Seconded: Joanne

Approved: Unanimous

3. Treasurer's Report: No charges, only credit is interest to the savings account.

Appropriation account: \$633, Savings: \$15,283.70

4. Data Center in Littleton

Cheryl raised the issue that per the Caledonian Record and meeting information available, some companies have been looking at Littleton for a possible data center site. The existing Littleton Planning and Zoning regulations seem to be not as robust as Bethlehem's. Littleton Water and Light does not have the current capacity to support the power consumption that has been discussed by potential developers. BCC members are having conversations with appropriate counterparts in Littleton with suggestions as to strategic ways to strengthen Planning and Zoning ordinances that would protect the region from a large, disruptive industrial use.

5. Leadership and Membership Transitions

Cheryl announced that she resigns as chair as of this meeting. She plans to remain as a member of the BCC.

Motion to reluctantly accept Cheryl's resignation as chair with many thanks for her years of leadership: Veronica

Second: Ivan

Approved: Unanimous

Cheryl passed on the message that KP has expressed her need to resign from the Conservation Commission.

Motion to reluctantly accept KP's resignation: Cheryl

Second: Chris

Approved: Unanimous

Motion to nominate Rachelle Lyons as Chair, Veronica Morris as Vice Chair: Ivan

Second: Colin

Approved: Unanimous

Upon discussion, the meeting will be changed to the third Wednesday of the month and start at 5:30pm. Rachelle will book the room with the library.

6. Tellman-Johnson Town Forest:

The knotweed patch near the landfill has expanded to approximately 100 feet wide and 20 feet deep. The patch on the waterline is an unusual shape but significantly smaller.

Rachelle met with Doug Cygan, the uplands and invasives management guy for NH Extension, and he would be happy to do a walk with members of the Commission as well as LWL, possibly the local conservation commissions and the public as a workshop on invasives. Rachelle will talk with Doug about a workshop in the week of September 21.

BCC will need to put out a RFP in October for knotweed control to get on their schedule for 2027.

Veronica will alert the Town office to the expected RFP. Three people who have worked in the region have been identified and would be specifically invited to bid on our RFP. Veronica will work with Mary on the RFP issuance.

- North Country Invasive Services - Lancaster CC has used him. Set fee for a site visit and then works on time & materials basis (rate \$65/hour). Can cap the amount. He's flexible with cost reduction methods, like allowing BCC to do the cutting.
- Keep It Native, Stratford, NH - Lancaster CC has used him.
- New England Forestry Consultants, Boscawen, NH - Campton CC has used him as have other towns.

Joanne has gone out several times looking to identify a possible trail route. There have been significant blowdowns in areas where a trail could have been. There is a shorter, approximately ¼ mile trail section that could make a good short trail that could be made an accessible trail from the Buckthorn Patch to Prospect Street.

A question was raised about how much use a trail might get considering Bretzfelder across the street and the Riverlands up the road. An accessible trail could be a difference and a benefit compared to other trails in the area. Would want to pursue grants to build and possibly consult with the XNHAT regarding their experience with trail construction and maintenance costs.

Parcel 5 has now been posted against hunting.

Medallions - Need to use between the no hunting signs. Joanne will find out who ACT is using right now as a vendor since they have recently bought medallions. Will look at pricing but approximately 100+ seems like a good idea, depending on cost, so that they can be used widely, old medallions can be replaced as needed, and they can, potentially, be used as some sort of gift.

6. Updates

Adopt-a-Spot: Form and spreadsheet have been recreated in the Bethlehem.gov space.

Dark Skies: Heard that someone in town might be interested in getting a property certified by/for Dark Skies. Cheryl will follow up and see if she can find out more information.

The SAU 36 Superintendent included in his recent newsletter something about a “scoreboard” and Cheryl let him know about the sign and lighting ordinance. The scoreboard is planned to be indoors. Cheryl continued the conversation to suggest that the lighting at Profile, BES, and other schools be less intense, emit less light pollution.

Riverlands Work Day, July 10: The Riverlands work day was sparsely attended - Joanne and her husband were able to attend on Friday and Saturday. Late notice was an issue for some people.

Motion to adjourn, 6:25pm: Cheryl Jensen

Second: Ivan

Approved: Unanimous

Minutes prepared by Veronica Morris