



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Town of Greenland Greenland, NH 03840
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MINUTES

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Meeting called to order at 6:35

Members Present: Kathleen Babin-johnson, Alice Passer, Cindy Hoonhout, Scott Estey, Bill Bilodeau arrived later

Not Present: Chip Hussey, Jean Eno

1. Welcome New Members - Scott Estey and Bill Bilodeau

2. Conservation Easement Monitoring Presentation: Avery Merrill, the summer intern, presented a comprehensive walkthrough of the six conservation easements he monitored—Thompson Brook, Weeks Brick House, Packer Brook, Maloney Fields, Valhalla, and Seavey / Coakley—with detailed observations, challenges, and findings.

- a. **Thompson Brook Replanting Project:** Avery reported on the spring replanting project at Thompson Brook, where 86 trees (jack pine, white pine, serviceberry, and winterberry) were planted. The white pines showed strong survival, while jack pines struggled, possibly due to water solution issues. The team observed a roughly 50% success rate, with overgrowth and invasive species impacting some trees.
- b. **Trail and Property Conditions:** Across multiple properties, Avery noted overgrown and uninviting trail entrances, thick understory, and areas needing maintenance. Some trails were well-mowed and accessible, while others, especially on the east side of Thompson Brook and Weeks Brick House, were overgrown and presented hazards such as fallen trees and poison ivy.
- c. **Illegal Dumping and Trash Issues:** Significant illegal dumping was documented, particularly at Maloney Fields (large oil tanks, car parts, construction debris), the easement behind Bethany Church and Packer Brook (campground trash, old car parts, buried wire, and hunting stands). Avery's findings were previously presented to the select board, highlighting the need for mitigation.
- d. **Access and Monitoring Challenges:** Some properties, such as Valhalla and Moulton Ave, presented significant access challenges due to thick vegetation and wet conditions, and bees, requiring creative entry methods. Avery sometimes had to turn back or find alternate routes and noted the persistence of old hunting blinds and other structures.
- e. **Discussion of Next Steps for Trash Mitigation and Property Cleanup:**

i. **Drafting a Letter to the Select Board:** The group agreed to collectively outline and send a letter to the select board, summarizing Avery's findings and proposing actionable steps for trash mitigation. Kathleen to draft.

ii. **Strategic Plan:** Including clean-up and maintenance to the new ConsCom Strategic Plan

3. Recap of National Night Out – 2 Mosquito Buckets were created and “raffled” to incentivize sign-ups for the ConsCom Newsletter. We recorded 20 new sign-ups!

4. Approval of July Minutes – tabled until future meeting pending availability of members who were present at July Meeting

5. Pollinator Pathways Event at Glenn Cove – reminder of the Aug 13, 2026 event

a. Motion to spend \$75 from the Commission's Pollinator Pathways budget line (a \$100 annual budget) on food for an upcoming Pollinator Pathways get-together. Alice Passer motioned to allow \$75 to be spent on food at the event, Cindy Hoonhout seconded. All were in favor

6. Thompson Brook Ticks: Kathleen noted that a couple of people at National Night Out had mentioned they did not utilize the Thompson Brook Trail system due to the presence of ticks. Commission members discussed potential trail maintenance, including mowing if funds are available through the warrant article dollars. No action was recommended

7. Old Business

a. Kathleen to write a report on the Weeks property easement monitoring for the Weeks Trust.

b. Kathleen to check with Charlotte regarding the timeline for submitting Warrant Articles

i. **Town Ordinance / Wetland Setback Review:** Members discussed reviewing town ordinance language on wetland and river setbacks (currently 100 feet) in light of increased development pressure around Great Bay, referencing a new Portsmouth wetland-setback document and state housing-law changes affecting local planning authority. The Commission plans to coordinate with the planning board a possible ordinance update, with a target of having a draft ready by January for the March town meeting warrant. No board action was taken.

ii. Bill suggested reaching out to other ConsComs to see what they might be considering revising in their communities.

8. Strategic Plan Kathleen mentioned that she and Jean had been spearheading the Strategic Plan effort and that they were going to meet with the Planning Board Chair to discuss. Alice asked what the connection between Planning Board and ConsCom Strategic Plan was, and Kathleen stated that the goal was to work in a collaborative manner.

9. Newsletter Planning and Content Management: Cindy, Scott Estey, and other members discussed the upcoming September newsletter, brainstorming topics,

assigning roles, and considering improvements to content management and distribution, including the use of Google Drive and Dropbox for collaboration.

- a. **Newsletter Content Brainstorming:** The team generated ideas for the September newsletter, including bird articles, fall cleanup tips, stormwater runoff, and vernal pools, and agreed to continue brainstorming and send ideas to Scott for compilation.
- b. **Assignment of Roles:** Scott was asked to take over newsletter compilation as a new member project, leveraging his photographic skills, while Cindy agreed to provide past content and support the transition.

10. New Business:

- a. Roadside clean up scheduled for October 7 from 9 to 2. Volunteers from Lowe's will participate with Greenland ConsCom and other volunteers to collect trash from a 2-mile section of 33 from Lowe's to Rolston Park.
- b. September meeting date/time change: Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the Select Board will be meeting in the conference room at the ConsCom normally scheduled time. ConsCom will look at a potential date for rescheduling Sept meeting. Sept 16 at 5 was suggested. Kathleen to confirm availability for this meeting date/time.

- 11. Adjournment** – Alice motioned to adjourn at 7:46 Bill seconded. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 7:46

DRAFT meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Cindy Hoonhout Aug 18, 2026