Town of Northwood
Conservation Commission Minutes
September 1, 2026
DRAFT

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Vice-Chair Susan Romano, Michael Romano, Tom Chase, Norm Royce, and Selectboard liaison David Copeland.

Voting Designation: Vice-Chair Susan Romano, Michael Romano, Tom Chase, and Norm Royce.

Absent: Chair Grace Levergood, Members: Grace Mattern, Steve Hampl, and Alternate member Eric Detweiler.

Town Staff: Land Use Supervisor Lisa Fellows-Weaver

MINUTES

August 4, 2026

On a motion made by Mr. Romano, and seconded by Mr. Chase, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of August 4, 2026, as written.

Public Input

None

APPOINTMENTS

1. ***Chris Berry, Berry Surveying & Engineering, 8 Nottingham Road, LCC. Map 234; Lot 33. Special Exceptions for development of a 34.79-acre parcel.***

Chris Berry emailed requesting the discussion of the 8 Nottingham Road project be postponed until the October meeting to allow additional information to be prepared.

NEW BUSINESS

Septic Setback Ordinance Recommendations

As a result of reviewing the 2026 recommendation in the Natural Resources Master Plan, Mr. Royce agreed to prepare draft language concerning septic setback recommendations for the Commission to review.

The Commission discussed presenting a change to the setback requirements for septic systems. This item was discussed based on the recommendations listed in the Natural Resources & Water Resources chapter of the Master Plan, specifically item R2, which suggested strengthening the setbacks for primary structures for all waterbodies.

On a motion made by Mr. Chase, and seconded by Mr. Royce, the Commission voted unanimously to recommend the Town of Northwood Planning Board consider adopting the stipulations and requirements of the ordinances that are in effect of NHDES Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act, as opposed to suggesting adopting a set distance requirement.

OLD BUSINESS:

Manganaro Timber Harvest – follow up

The Commission scheduled a site walk for September 29, 2026, at 10 AM, with a rain date set for October 6, 2026, at 10 AM. Members will meet at the Forest Peters Wildlife Management Area parking area.

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High Priority Wetlands Database & Field Walks

Mr. & Mrs. Romano indicated that they have completed the fieldwork and final reports are forthcoming. Members will continue to work on updates, and wetlands inventory work will remain as a recurring agenda item.

Town Staff Items

Community Outreach Program – follow up

Mr. Royce stated that he did prepare a summary of the educational presentation and it will be in the next edition of the Northwood News.

NH Lakes - Dues

Ms. Fellows-Weaver updated the Commission regarding the status of the dues for the NH Lakes. She was requested to hold off submitting payment until alter on in the year. Members requested an email to NH Lakes indicating that payment will be forthcoming. This item continued to the October meeting.

Correspondence

- *Intent to Cut Request* – none
- *NHDES Applications – PBN, Wilkins, Lagoon Road. Map 116/Lot 75*

  The application was reviewed and discussions were held relative to the appropriateness of the type of application and the process of the proposed work. After review, members felt the application was accurate as the proposal will not change the height, length, location, or the configuration of the pre-existing wall, and would meet the criteria for a PBN. *No action was required.*

- *NHDES Correspondence:*
  - *Chapdelaine, Lynn Grove Road. Map 113/Lot 2/16. Shoreland Permit Application*
  - *Roether, Lakeview Drive. Map 106/Lot 16. Shoreland Permit Application*
  - *Extreme Homes & Investments, Lynn Grove Road. Map 113/Lot 22-More Information*

  No action was required.

- *NHDES Correspondence - follow-up:*

  - *Peterson, 54 Shore Drive. Map 122; lot 35. PBN - Request for more information, nothing new received. No action was required.*

<u>Other</u>

Mr. Royce explained that NH State Representative Rosemarie Rung, out of Merrimack, is planning to submit a Legislative Service Request to copy municipalities, local conservation commissions, and river advisory committees on applications for shoreland permits.

Additional discussion was held regarding the town's processes, the timing of reviewing applications, and submitting comments to NHDES.

Ms. Romano stated that she is on the Governor's Wetland Council and they are currently reviewing and changing processes. She recalled that there was a recent

discussion about the timing and other items and the burden to conservation commissions. She stated that she would update the Commission next month.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is October 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Romano, and seconded by Mr. Royce, and unanimously accepted, at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa Fellows-Weaver
Land Use Supervisor

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