



CITY OF DOVER

DOVER CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Council Conference Room - 288 Central Avenue, Dover, NH
Meeting Date: Monday February 9, 2026
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Hunt (Chair), Steve Fellows (Vice Chair), Robert Atwood (Secretary), Russ Warnock, Abigail Lyon

Absent (Excused): Brendan Mulhall (Alternate) Brianna Group (Alternate), Kristen Murphy

Absent (Unexcused):

STAFF PRESENT: Makayla Edgecomb, Assistant City Planner/ Conservation Planner, Donna Benton, Director of Planning and Community Development, John Storer, Community Services Director

OTHERS PRESENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was convened at 5:30 PM.

2. CITIZENS' FORUM

The Chair gave instructions for Citizens' forum

Eric Leaver, 42 Main st spoke about the Smith Well Lot and noted he supports taking down the No Trespassing signs. He utilizes the trails etc and noted the safety concerns with using the road to walk or bike in that area.

Kim Faustino, 7 Lakeview Dr handed out a packet of info to the board members and commented on how the Willand Pond treatments are similar to cancer treatments. She showed some maps showing the increase of milfoil. She spoke about some expiring funding and encouraged funding the project and noted the pond needs work.

Cynthia Walter, Dover agreed that Willand pond needs attention and milfoil needs to be reduced. She encouraged the commission to recommend to City Council the least toxic approach to cleaning it up which is in line with the 2018 policy.

Aimee Dion, lives close to the pond and agrees that the NHDES recommendation is the best one for this specific pond. This will be a long-term project and the neighbors are willing to be involved in the progress.

Peter Schmidt, Ward 1 House of Representatives supports the City Council's urgent addressing of the milfoil in the pond though he is concerned about adding an herbicide to the pond. He asked the commission for their support in securing the funding and to investigate whether the use of herbicides is harmful or not.

Jackie Group recently moved to the pond area and is concerned about the issue but trusts the commission and the state that they know what's best.

3. APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES- January 12, 2026

S. Fellows moved to approve the minutes of January 12th as submitted. A. Lyon seconded. Vote: All in favor



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4. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Grant Conservation Fund Request for Staff Administration Cost

R. Warnock moved to take up this item at the end of the meeting. S. Fellows seconded. Vote: All in favor

B. Smith Well Lot

John Storer, Community Services Director noted M. Edgecomb has approached him with a request for access, but the department has not completed an internal recommendation yet. There is a balancing act to allow passive recreation and potential security issues. His staff will reach out to NH DES for their feedback whether to allow passive recreation there or what the issues might be. There might be a balancing act to delineate where the recreational areas are welcome and where it is off-limits which can be monitored by police.

Commission members noted currently the public is accessing the property. It's not a spot that is requesting to go from no access to access- there is already activity there.

C. Willand Pond Grant Recommendation to Council

M. Edgecomb gave the background information of this grant and what is before the commission tonight in advance of the City Council taking action this week.

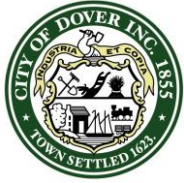
Discussion ensued clarifying the various costs and grant amounts, procedures, next steps and funding deadlines.

R. Warnock suggested to recommend supporting the state's plan to address this issue. The City has not taken action to rectify this issue over many years and now measures are desperately needed. In addition, follow-up will be required and the City needs to budget for that over the coming years.

R. Warnock moved to accept the plan and encourage Council to accept the funding and continue to fund the plan through completion. Seconded by: S. Fellows. Vote: All in favor

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. City of Dover Conditional Use Permit for Ahmed Ahmed, Assessor's Map 7 Lot 8 zoned R-20 located at 11 Boston Harbor Road. Proposal is to raise part of the existing home to reconstruct the foundation, and to convert the existing driving to pervious pavers resulting in 2,000 s.f. of impacts to the Conservation District. (COND-2026-0004)



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Rick Chellman, Survey Engineer with TND Engineering presented the item and explained the proposal and details.

He answered clarifying questions about the proposal for the commission members. Additional discussion included protecting the large trees on site.

R. Warnock moved to endorse the proposal as presented. Seconded by: A. Lyon. All in favor

6. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

A. Review of Correspondence Received from NH Department of Environmental Services

M. Edgecomb noted no correspondence received.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

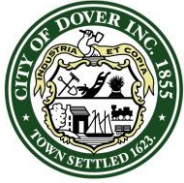
A. Update from Forest Management Subcommittee

- a. The grant was awarded and they discussed RFQ/RFP for arborist/ landscape architect to submit a plan for Ash tree removal and replacement downtown. Discussed whether a formal sub-committee needs to continue to handle the project, or whether a working group can work directly with Community Services staff.
 - i. John Storer noted his staff is happy to plant what is needed and prefer to be given a list / plan that includes the coming years. In addition, staff has now added a budget line item for trees so they can really focus on putting in about 20 trees per year. He clarified the steps for going to bid etc which will be handled by staff. The commission can supply M. Edgecomb the list of trees and areas they need to go. To aid with logistics and cost, each year's list should only include a few varieties of trees.
 - ii. The more information available to be included in the bid the better (tree types and mapped locations)
 - iii. Discussion continued about the Forest Management Subcommittee disbanding and creating a work group to monitor the tree plantings which would meet on an as-needed basis.

S. Fellows moved to sunset the Forest Management Subcommittee and implement a work group to manage the ongoing street tree planting project. Seconded by: R. Atwood. All in favor

B. By laws and Handbook

- a. M. Edgecomb is working with staff to get the handbook accessible through the website
 - i. A glossary has been requested to be included with often used acronyms defined
- b. M. Edgecomb has discussed the requested change to the make-up of members and alternate members with staff and it's in the works.



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A. Grant Conservation Fund Request for Staff Administration Cost

Staff provided a memo from the Finance Department showing the last five years of incoming and outgoing funds from the account as requested by the Commission at the last meeting.

Commission members discussed wanting the Council to have this position not filled 100% from the Conservation fund, but split with City funds.

Other Items

None

9. ADJOURNMENT

S. Fellows moved to adjourn. A. Lyon seconded. Vote: U/A

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.