

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 March 9, 2026
Meeting Time: 5:30 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Hunt (Chair), Steve Fellows (Vice Chair), Robert Atwood (Secretary), Russ Warnock, Abigail Lyon, Brianna Group, Kristen Murphy (Alternate), Thomas Fargo (Alternate)

Absent (Excused): Brendan Mulhall (Alternate)

Absent (Unexcused):

STAFF PRESENT: Makayla Edgecomb (Conservation Planner)

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

D. Clough, part-time City employee commented on the importance of Adopt a Spot program for trees.

Continued discussion occurred with the commission members.

K. Faustino gave an update on the Willand Pond topic which is on the agenda tonight and asked for continued support.

3. APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES- February 9, 2026

S. Fellows moved to approve the minutes of February 9th as submitted. R. Atwood seconded. Vote: 5-0 with 3 abstentions

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Willand Pond: Updated Bid Responses + Recommendations

M. Edgewood noted the state recommendation is to use herbicide and follow up with dash. Council put out a bid for dash only or manual removal. One bid for dash only and one bid for herbicide only were received. She explained the details of the treatment proposals received and the costs along with reviewing the details of the original bid for herbicide and follow up with dash which was recommended by the state.

The commission discussed the details of each in order to determine their recommendation to Council.

After much discussion the commission members agreed to endorse their original recommendation and to not recommend either of the two new plans that came in from the recent bid. They specified all of the reasons for their decision.

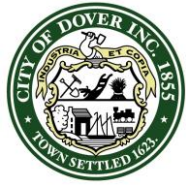
R. Warnock moved to recommend following the state plan with the funds already allocated and discouraged following either of the two new bids. A. Lyon seconded. Vote: All in favor (6-0)

B. Consider an amendment to the previously approved March 2024 vote of up to \$20,000 to up to \$30,000 for Willand Pond remediation.

This item not heard.

C. Smith Well lot

M. Edgecomb noted there is a delay while waiting on the state. There should be an update by the next meeting.



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D. Member Update

Brendan Mulhall was not able to attend today, but he is moving at the end of the month and will no longer be a member. Brianna is now a regular member and Kristen is an alternate. Thomas Fargo is now a new alternate that was just appointed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consider a motion to expend 30k from the Conservation Fund that will go towards project costs in working with SELT to acquire a 10-acre donated Conservation Easement.

Kaitlyn Deyo from SELT presented the item to the commission, gave background information, details of the size and conservation value of the property.

She addressed questions from members of the commission.

One member commented on the importance of public access to conserved lands whenever possible.

Lyon moved to endorse expending up to \$30,000 from the Conservation Fund to support the donated conservation easement project with SELT. B. Group seconded. Vote: All in favor (6-0)

- B. City of Dover Conditional Use Permit and NHDES Expedited Minimum Impact Wetlands Permit for Eversource Energy Map 24, Lot 132 zoned RM-U located on Cocheco Street. Proposal is for an expansion to the Eversource Substation involving installation of temporary electric infrastructure resulting in 8 sf of permanent wetland impacts, 1,618 sf of temporary wetland impacts, 20 sf of permanent wetland buffer impacts and 1,615 sf of temporary wetland buffer impacts

Nick Golon, TF Moran represented the item and highlighted the location, overview of the project, and the permits required.

He addressed questions from the committee members.

S. Fellows moved to endorse the Conditional Use Permit and NHDES Expedited Minimum Impact Wetlands Permit. A. Lyon seconded. Vote: All in favor (6-0)

6. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

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

None

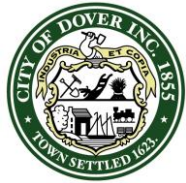
7. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. By laws

M. Edgecomb noted staff has made edits and will need Council approval.

A. Lyon brought up items for possible revision including whether to have public comment on each hearing item rather than just citizens forum at the beginning of the meeting, and whether back and forth conversations with members of the public are allowed.

M. Edgecomb will arrange edits and have ready for review at the next meeting.



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B. Handbook

Members should review and it can be discussed at the next meeting whether there are any suggested changes.

Other Business:

M. Edgecomb noted there is no longer a forestry sub-committee, but if anyone is interested in being on a working group to give input on the tree plantings (separate from the Ash tree project) let her know.

R. Warnock noted the Woodman museum is doing an earth day sustainability event and offered the commission a table.

Member comments:

K. Murphy – public access on conservation lands
Discussion ensued

8. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.