



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

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Minutes for Meeting on December 8, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Ridge Town Office

Members present: Synnott, Rubendall, Dickler, Simeone, Drouin, Mellor, Lefebvre, Rogers

Public present: Steve Lamonde

OLD BUSINESS

- Natural Resource Mapping/trail maps – Lamonde
 - Steve Lamonde presented on the progress of mapping project. Edits and additions were discussed including parcel boundaries and branding. General feedback was positive. Lamonde compiled Commission's edits to make relevant changes.
 - The next draft will be ready for presentation at RCC meeting on 1/12/26.
- Aaron Graham eagle scout bridge site review – Drouin
 - Conducted site visit on 11/28/25. Will likely 16' crossing bridge upstream that will break off of the existing loop trail, construction tbd Spring 2026.
 - Synnott raised question of using the old bridge as a dock and Mellor asked where existing bridge would go, Drouin noted downstream as possible dock, no firm decision.
- Conservation Land & Related –
 - Deer stand(s) at Converse Meadows – Mellor
 - NH Fish & Game inconclusive action. Stand will be illegal as of 1/1/26 after season ends. NH F&G officer will do site visit and report back. Eventually.
 - Mellor relayed information back to R. Pendleton will keep further informed.
 - DES/Monadnock Conservancy walk at Mattabeseck – Mellor
 - Mellor, R. Pendleton and two women walked to monitor groundwater, 3+ hr hike for testing and observation. Positive reviews and approval of RCC signage.
 - Sandback Wilderness Updates – Mellor
 - Mellor noted that Sandback file included gps mapped trails which validated existence of and maintenance of pedestrian trails. R. Pendleton was positive about development and for clearing and posting trails next season. Perimeter needs to be re-posted with specific signage.
 - Workday report from Mattabeseck – Drouin/Rubendall
 - November turnout of 7-8 volunteers logging 20+ total hours clearing trail and creating southern entrance. Rubendall returned a few days later to put up new blazes, Mellor removed the old ribbons during DES walk.

NEW BUSINESS

- BOS/BAC budget meeting report 11/19 – Drouin
 - Final numbers not available, had productive meeting with BAC. January 2026 will deliver concrete answers and plan forward.
- Planning Board Zoning Ordinance Amendment Committee
 - Drouin read invitation from Planning Board for commission member to join a monthly meeting on backlots. He volunteered as RCC representative with Mellor as alternate.
- Sign style committee – Dickler

- Dickler, Synnott and Lefebvre have met 2x for a total of 15hrs of cataloging existing signage, standard color scheme and type faces. Will have presentation in January.
 - One exception to standardization will be Sandback Wilderness signage.
- 2025 Report – Drouin
 - Drouin will focus on messaging and purpose, highlight accomplishments. Due January.
- End of Year donations – Drouin
 - Drouin noted receipt of donations in memory of Bill Gunther.
 - Charlie and Daphne Sampson made \$3,000 gift for purpose of acquiring new property.
 - Commission briefly discussed legacy and estate gift planning options.
- Snow Removal & Vandalism – Mellor
 - Noted status of properties after 12/2 snowstorm; private plowing at Tetrault. None by Gordon- Drouin will follow up on contract.
 - Addressed issue of vehicle damaging property at Tetrault on 12/3.
- Liberty Tree – Drouin/Lefebvre
 - Lefebvre presented plaque to commission, boulder will be selected. Drouin summarized repair work to Liberty Elm to correct leaning.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

- Letter of Deficiency: Map 14; Lot 42; 50 Lachance Drive
 - Drouin read letter noting that the property has a multitude of violations concerning tree removal, shoreline and landscape altering, and unpermitted construction of boat dock. Property owner to prepare plan to restore vegetation and trees. Additional info tbd.

Account Approvals & Updates

- Conservationist Award quote - Lefebvre

Upcoming Events

- Meat raffle, 1/3?
 - Lefebvre made calls to find additional information on meat raffle date. Will not be January.
- Conservationist of the Year Award and Lecture 1/17
 - Birding and CoTY presentation scheduled for 10a on January 17, 2026 at Rindge Rec. Snow contingency plan will be for the next weekend if speaker is available.
 - Rubendall moved to approve up to \$100 on plaques for Conservationist of the Year, seconded by Dickler. Commission voted 8-0 in favor.
 - Dickler moved to approve up to \$50 for refreshments, seconded by Mellor. Commission voted 8-0 in favor.
- Full Moon Hike, Tetreault, 1/31, led by Drouin, 7pm

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES for November 10, 2025 (attached)

- Lefebvre moved to accept the minutes of November 10 as edited. Commission voted 8-0 in favor.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: REAL ESTATE: RSA 91-A:3

- Lefebvre moved to enter Non-Public Session Real Estate RSA 91-A:3, seconded by Rogers. Drouin surveyed the commission for a vote, 8-0 approved. Commission moved to non-public at 9:21pm.

ADJOURNMENT

- Mellor moved to seal non-public minutes, seconded by Dickler. The commission voted 8-0 in favor.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

NEXT MEETING: January 12, 2026 at Town Office

Schedule of 2026 Meetings: 1/12, 1/22, 2/9&26, 3/9&26, 4/13&23, 5/11&28, 6/8&25, 7/13&23, 8/10&27, 9/14&24, 10/12&22, 11/9, 12/14

And any other business that comes before the Commission.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Nardini