CONSERVATION COMMISSION
30 PAYSON HILL ROAD
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Approved Minutes of Meeting on October 22, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Rindge Town Office

Attendance: Rubendall, Drouin, Friedman, Rogers, Lefebvre

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m. by chairman Drouin.

OFFICIAL NOTICES
- None

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES for October 12, 2026
- Friedman moved, Rogers seconded the approval of minutes with changes.

ACCOUNT APPROVALS & UPDATE
- Rubendall moved, Rogers seconded a motion for up to $3,000 for the printing and installation of Contoocook signs. $800 was approved as part of the total for Susan Kochinskas, design and production.

UPCOMING EVENTS
- NHACC annual conference; Saturday, November 7; Pembroke Academy. Meet at 6:45 a.m. Richard, David, Rob and Al are attending. Al will provide transportation.

- FPU climate fair will be attended with a booth Friday, October 23. Mellor, Drouin and Lefebvre will staff the booth.

OLD BUSINESS
- Commission task list and sub-committee formation. Mellor, Rogers, and Rubendall will take on collating a list of duties for members and commission in general. Drouin provided an outline of contents for a three-ring binder of the commission's work. The initial goal will be to create an outline that can be filled out in more detail by the commission members who are currently responsible for that function.

- Review of 2026 hikes, programs and workdays; preparation for developing 2027 calendar. Rubendall handed out a list of events, hikes and programs from 2026. The commission discussed how to better promote hikes by partnering with a professional or specific group. Lefebvre wondered whether having a theme based on the month made any difference. Having a forester talk about the trees on properties. Drouin suggested we set up specifically themed hikes with partners and not try to fill every month.

- Rubendall asked about the workdays and suggested we only announce them when a project is worthy of people's time and numbers. Lefebvre asked about having a luncheon to appreciate

our conservation corps and steward members. Bathrooms and water would be necessary. The 2027 schedule will be discussed at the November meeting.

- Two key projects that Dickler normally handled have been taken over – The Merrimac Partnership signs at Contoocook and the winter Chamber of Commerce newsletter.

Review of old non-public meeting minutes. Lefebvre opened the first envelope of sealed non-public minutes that are ten years old. Lefebvre moved and Fred seconded to unseal the following non-public minutes: November 9, December 14, 2015, December 28, 2015, February 8, 2016, February 25, 2016, March 14, 2016, March 24, 2016, April 11, 2016, April 28, 2016, August 8, 2016, August 26, 2016, September 12, 2016, October 27, 2016, November 14, 2016, December 12, 2016, January 26, 2017

- January 28, 2016 minutes will remain sealed.

- Natural Resource Mapper updates – Lefebvre stated we are planning to rename and add trail names to the mapper. Miriam Hunt and Mattabeseck are to be signed in 2027. He handed out the two maps for people to suggest names for them. The extension of the blue dot trail at Mattabeseck still needs to be mapped. All changes should be made before sending changes to Moosewood Ecological.

NEW BUSINESS

- Budget review and FY2027 proposal. Rubendall handed out a report showing the status of the 01 town budget and a discussion followed. The property maintenance line is underfunded, but it's doubtful that we will get more. We will ask for $3,500 next year. Staff development line will be close to used up after the annual conference. The Conservation Fund account was also distributed. Question was raised as to whether the Conservation Fund budget would be shared at the budget hearing. Rubendall will find the balance in that account before the meeting.

- Collaboration with WFPC-LP 105.3 The Talon at FPU. Rubendall will respond and get more information.

- Consideration of an earlier meeting start time. Commission decided not to change the meeting time now.

NEXT MEETING: 11/9/26 at Town Office (6:30)

Respectfully submitted by Rob Rubendall, clerk