

Draft Minutes Nelson Conservation Commission

December 1, 2025 6:00 PM

Lower Level of Library

Call to Order 6:00 PM

Attending Janet Yardley chair, minute taker; Nina Iselin; Dave Birchenough;

Conservation Moments: Quiet in the woods, loons still present, less calling

Approval of Minutes November 2025 moved as amended by Nina Iselin, second Dave Birchenough approved 3/0

Report on Kestrel Program

Attended by 15-20 people, good presentation

Invoice brought by Dave Birchenough for \$250.00. He offered to send a copy electronically to Edie that has an option of paying electronically. Will offer that to Edie. Motion to approve payment to Harris Center for invoice in amount of \$250.00 by Nina Iselin, second by Janet Yardley approved 3/0.

Budget for 2026 Discussed again. Motion by Nina Iselin to approve budget, second Dave Birchenough approved 3/0.

Vote to finalize Town Report Conservation Commission Report written by Nina. All agree Nina has done an excellent job. Motion by Janet Yardley to approve the report, second by Dave Birchenough approved 3/0.

Master Plan Update Nina will send around most recent version for any further comments.

Trails Consultation by AMC tentatively scheduled for April 17-18 Full scope and cost to be prepared in the next 2-3 weeks.

Update of NRI Nina has tried contacting Jeff Littleton. Has called and emailed several times with no responses yet. Barbara Richter at NHACC reported that he had been away and may still be catching up. Janet Yardley offered to call also if he does not respond to Nina.

Green Burials Dave Birchenough brought information about a growing move to Green Burials that do not use toxic embalming chemicals and less energy than cremation. Non-toxic chemicals used to hasten decomposition and then burial in plain wood box and cotton shroud. Burial then in either field or wooded area with the trees assisting in the final decomposition.

There is such a site in Hillsborough, Life Forest. He will talk with Al Stoops on the Nelson Cemetery Board.

Dave Birchenough gave report from the Harris Center Board of Directors about a project to conserve 655 acres of land in the northeast corner of Nelson. 549 acres in Nelson, 21 acres in Hancock and 85 acres in Antrim. This creates a much more robust wildlife corridor in that area and abuts several existing Harris Center Conserved parcels. The plan is to have the land owned by Society for Protection of NH Forests with the conservation easement owned by the Harris Center. The total cost of the project is \$620,000 and to date, \$230,000 has been raised. Most of the land is currently owned by S&M Forest and they are interested in selling the land. It includes Holt Hill and Rollstone Mountain.

Janet will check with Tom Newcombe on the balance in the Milfoil and Conservation Trust funds.

Clear cut on the Ridge Trail. On 11/17/25 John Bunce brought his tractor and bush hog up and cleared a large section of the area. He was not able to get all the stumps because he was concerned that the spruce stumps could get tangled in the machinery. Rick Church estimates a half day work crew with hand tools can finish the job.

Motion to adjourn at 7:45 made by Janet Yardley, second by Dave Birchenough approved 3/0.

Next meeting January 5, 2026 at 6:00PM lower level of library.