

Draft Minutes Nelson Conservation Commission

June 2, 2026

6:00 PM

Lower Level of Library

Call to Order 6:27 Present Janet Yardley chair, Margy Iselin, Nina Iselin

Conservation Moments Beavers working and playing on their lodge in the wet land on Nelson Road.

Approval of minutes of meeting May 2026

Meeting with Select Board on May 27 2026 Janet, Tom, Margy attended with about 6 community members present in addition to the Select Board members. Distributed maps and photos and Harris Center Donation letter and Nina Iselin's letter. Described the conservation value of the land itself as well as its importance to improve the wild life corridor and to increase the protected watershed of Nubanusit from 60% to 70%. Reviewed the ownership and forest management will be by Forest Society and Conservation easement held by the Harris Center. Select Board acknowledged that they do not have any authority of how the NCC expends money from the Conservation Trust and raised the following concerns: They feel that the land is unlikely to be developed due to it's difficult access, that the proposed donation is a large percentage of the fund balance, that if there is any concern that the Harris Center and Forest Society do not raise all the money needed what will happen to the donated funds and concerns that the Forest Society timber harvesting process using large machines could be detrimental to the health of the forest. We answered their questions and invited them to attend the Public Forum in August if they have continuing concerns about the forest management.

Update on fundraising Nelson Highlands and another Harris Center potential acquisition. Fund raising is ongoing and have not met their goal. There is an emergent conservation project adjacent to Nelson Highlands that would also help strengthen the wild life corridor further. The Harris center has re-iterated that if they and the Forest Society are unable to raise all the money they need for the project, donors will have the option of transferring the donation to another Harris Center project, make the donation to the general fund for the Harris Center to use as they wish for other projects or to have the money returned. All NCC members and alternates are invited to the donor appreciation event at Greengate on June 13.

Motion by Janet Yardley to donate \$100,000 to the Harris Center for Conservation Education for the purchase and conservation easement of Nelson Highlands with money from the Conservation Fund. Second Nina Iselin. Concerns raised that we would rather have more than a mere quorum to pass this motion. *Tabled or withdrawn to special meeting June*

*NRI update Tabled to July meeting*

Discuss the pros and cons of the Swanzey, Newport and Claremont examples

Black Fly Express article will continue to edit off line and request comments from Gordan Peery.

Summer meeting times tabled to special meeting June

Old Home Day(s) August 8 and week prior tabled to July Meeting

Tree/shrub identification

Craft project

Other thoughts

View from Osgood Message sent to AI Stoops about marking the trees Will review at July Meeting

Special Meeting Monday, June 15, 2026, 7:00 lower level library

Next Regular Meeting July 6, 2026 6:00 PM Lower Level of Library

Submitted Janet Yardley