



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

30 PAYSON HILL ROAD

RINDGE, NH 03461

Tel. (603) 899-5181

Fax (603) 899-2101

TDD 1-800-735-2964

Minutes for Meeting on August 10, 2026, 6:30 p.m. Rindge Town Office

MEMBERS:

David Drouin, Chair	Present
Richard Mellor, Vice Chair	Present
Rob Rubendall, Clerk	Present
Deni Dickler, Regular	Present
Fred Rogers, Regular	Present
Richard Synnott, Regular	Present
Del Friedman, Regular	Present
AL Lefebvre, Alternate	Present
Phil Simeone, Alternate	Present
Fred Dodge, Alternate	Absent

PUBLIC PRESENT:

OFFICIAL NOTICES

- Proposal to amend agenda
 - Response to letter prepared on backlots – no new developments, will be reviewed 9/1/26.
 - Recent deaths in community noted by Lefebvre and commission.
- Standard Dredge and Fill Application #2026-01500; Map #4, Lot #3-1 (Boardwalk property, Rt119)
 - Planning site walk with DES, looking for additional information on plans and alternatives.
 - Friedman noted that this level of pushback from the state is unusual.
- Request for Additional information; Map #3, Lot #43; Goddard Road, Van Dyke
 - July 30, 2026 follow-up to a March 21, 2024 letter, performing review of open files and looking for contact information regarding 2024 proposed site restoration plan. Resident to contact RCC for contact update, commission suggested inviting resident to RCC meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES for July 23, 2026

- Lefebvre noted two edits to draft minutes, agreed to by commission.
- Lefebvre moved to approve the minutes of July 23, 2026 as corrected, seconded by Rogers. Commission voted 6-0-3, motion approved.

ACCOUNT APPROVALS & UPDATE

- Distributed for signatures.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Hike at Tetreault, August 16 – National Honeybee month
 - Co-led by Rubendall and Drouin

OLD BUSINESS

- Fall speaker and location – Lefebvre
 - September 24, 6:30pm at Cathedral of the Pines, RCC meet at 6p for setup.
 - Lecture title: How Individuals Can Make a Difference in Conservation
 - Lefebvre moved to approve up to \$100 for refreshments, seconded by Synnott. Commission voted 9-0 in favor, motion approved.
- Review of proposed PB wetlands ordinance changes



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- Report expected by 8/21. Commission will review it by 2nd meeting in August. Goal to have re-report summary to BoS by 9/1/26.
- Dickler also asked for effects of setbacks based on extreme climate events or weather patterns, noted other areas of country that are experiencing
- Drouin noted vacancy on Planning Board and encouraged RCC to spread word of opening. Dickler asked if any known individuals are applying. Planning Board will appoint, ConComm will offer recommendation if needed.
- August 8 workday report - Drouin
 - Seven volunteers for three hours helped install kiosk and install boardwalk at Mattabeseck. Photos of volunteers were shared at the meeting, also posted on Life in Rindge Facebook.
 - Mellor noted suggestion to sign committee for directional markers.
 - Mellor and Pat Martin surveyed potential loop to add on yellow trail
 - Drouin asked for update on Contoocook bridge update with Eagle Scout, no update.

NEW BUSINESS

- MLPOA community presentation planning – Don Wilson
 - Official request to RCC to host 9/14 community presentation at 6:30pm to address lake health, Rindge watershed and actionable steps to improve conditions. Public is welcome to attend.
 - Drouin asked confirmation that event will be held at Rindge Recreation Center, confirmed.
 - Jeff Isenberg, President and head of communications, will spearhead public relations to expand attendance to Rindge and Winchendon public outside of solely lakeside owners.
 - Dickler addressed conflict of watershed presentation and RCC lecture on 9/24, did not want to divert attendance from larger event, offered list of organizations for outreach.
 - All lake associations will be invited along with surrounding towns.
- Monadnock Hemlock Woolly Adelgid project – Harry Wolhandler, Ralph Zingaro
 - Introduced project history and research partners with key partnership with Cornell University and Dr. R.C. McDonald. Eastern hemlock is under attack by Hemlock woolly adelgids (HWA), releases of *Laricobius nigrinus* beetles combat infestation as natural HWA predators. Incubator labs at Cornell have been producing colonies and have managed to repair acres of hemlocks in southeastern US through beetle inoculation. Project has evolved into a new nonprofit group out of Harrisville to manage distribution and monitoring for inoculation in the Monadnock region.
 - White Mt. Horticultural Research Foundation – beetlessaveneedles.com
 - Ask to RCC to support- volunteering, philanthropic support with noted org goal of beetle farming area, private landowner support, grant opportunities, press, create list of affected properties, survey of affected properties.
 - Beetle cost approx. \$8/ea with bulk discount for colony base. (\$2,400+ for 300+ supply).
- Merrimack Conservation Partnership
 - Grant from October 2025 funded eight additional signs. Dickler distributed sign drafts on sign 1: Dragonflies and Damselflies, sign 2: Freshwater Turtles. Suggestion to add Wetland Grasses and Aquatic Vegetation for final two signs if wanted done in 2026. Grant allows projects through May 2027. Dickler noted that signs need to be tied to watershed and preservation, suggestion to have two at Contoocook, two at Mattabeseck.



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- Synnott asked for actual sign sizes and noted that they are very text-heavy. Dickler agreed and will work to reduce amount of text, increase whitespace.
- Fall chamber newsletter article - Dickler
 - Rindge Women's Club table at Harvest Fest, no charge.
- CNBRLAC- Lefebvre
 - Lefebvre stepping down from monthly meeting, Rindge needs one representative (does not need to be a ConComm member). Mellor suggested a member of local lake association.
- Bill Gunther – Simeone
 - Bill Gunther's widow asked Simeone for list of donors in B. Gunther's memory for personal thank you notes. Rubendall will supply list.
- Jeff Littleton game cams – Mellor
 - Mellor noted follow-up conversation in which the software cost could be waived. Commission discussed tabling project to 2027.

ADJOURNMENT

- Rubendall moved to adjourn, seconded by Mellor. Commission voted 9-0 in favor, motion approved.
 - Meeting adjourned, 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Nardini