

**Town of Londonderry
Conservation Commission**

MINUTES

Thursday, August 20, 2026

Present: Helen Hamman, Irwin Kuperberg, Jane MacKugler, Steve Swinburne, Mark Wright,
Sunny Wright, Gary Hedman (via zoom); visitor: Greta Aiken

1. The meeting was called to order at 510pm
2. The following additions and deletions were made to the agenda:
 - a. Planning Commission
 - b. Connecticut River Conservancy grant request
 - c. Remove Recreation Director item
 - d. Remove Conservation News
3. The July minutes were unanimously approved after a motion by Helen seconded by Steve
4. Old Business
 - a. Natural Resources Inventory – Greta Aiken discussed the Natural Resource inventory that she has worked on over the past 2 years. Irwin thanked her for the very thorough and detailed report. She discussed the possibilities and challenges of creating a storyboard and we also discussed other ways to use the data. We will pursue this in more detail.
 - b. Pollinator Garden-There is currently a lot of echinaccia, echincaccia and goldenrod. The proliferation of goldenrod is a potential problem and Mark suggested that we do a high mowing early next year to control them.
 - c. Wastewater Project – Gary suggested that no further updates are needed from our standpoint unless anything relevant to us comes up
 - d. Water Sampling- In Annie Bisette’s absence this month Jeannie Forbes has kindly stepped in to perform sampling duties at Annie’s sites just above and below Williams Dam. Steve stated that the biweekly report shows e coli have not been elevated in our sections of the river and that levels have been decreasing throughout the summer.
 - e. Events
 - i. Luke Groff of VT Fish & Wildlife is confirmed for October 22 for Snake Rattle and Roll which we will hold at the Depot
 - ii. Patti Smith of Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center will speak on Beavers on September 24 at 5:30 in the FBS library. Jane will contact Flood Brook to set it up.
 - iii. Jane spoke to Dara Carlton about a foraging talk in the spring
 - iv. Mark reached out to Fred Homer and Ron Svec about a follow up in April to the Owl talk and Bluebird talk, respectively. In connection with that we will conduct an inventory of the bird boxes to see what happened among them. Helen will create a spreadsheet to compile

- v. We will stage the Biggest Tree in Londonderry contest as we did several years ago. Good project for January, February

5. New Business

- a. Planning Commission- We received an invitation from the PC to provide input and Mark had accepted on our behalf. To date there has been no activity on this.
- b. Land Acquisition Task Force- Irwin attended the first meeting of the Land Acquisition Task Force. Since it appeared that the work of the Task Force will continue many months and extend into the time he will be away he suggested that he step aside. Mark volunteered to take his place and Irwin will inform the members of this change.
- c. Addition of an unofficial junior member- School starts soon at the BBA Mountain Campus and Mark will talk John Hammond, the Campus Director, about a member.
- d. Connecticut River Conservancy grant request -Gary presented shared a request from the CT River Conservancy that we support a grant for an art installation in connection with the West River. Everyone agreed this was a good idea and we will move forward with it.

6. Wildlife sightings -mergansers, blue heron, bald eagle, loons, deer, turkeys

Next meeting: Thursday, September 17