

**Conway Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**Meeting Date, 07/22/25, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, General Purpose Room, 5 Academy Hill Road**

**Present for the Conservation Commission:** Tony Somers, Mary Kay Costello, Jeanne Thomas, Louise M. Beckett

**Others Present:** Tim O'Reilly, Chris LaRose, Virginia Martell, Wendy Stayman, Mark/Erica Ladd, Scott/Elizabeth Wolfram, Amir Raza, Mass DOT Sean Barry Engineering Consultant

At 6:03 p.m. Tony called meeting to order.

On a motion from Tony to approve the Minutes of July 8, 2025, Jeanne seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

*Financial*

- Invoices for Reimbursement - None
- Invoice from *Greenfield Recorder* - None
- Fee payments received - None

*Building Permits/Site Visits/Inquiries*

**Inquiries**

None

**Site Visits - July 14, 2025**

0 Shelburne Falls Road - Lot 68-410: NOI for the construction of a new residence and septic within the 100' RFA and 50' BVW Buffer Filed by Vincent Hohreiter, 255 Falls Road

1446 Ashfield Rd. Filed by Morton Builders RDA for a garage for Heather Rose. Filed by Morton Builders

North Poland Rd. - NOI for the 38A1 Distribution Line Rebuild/Reconductor project. filed by BSC Group, Inc.

**Permits**

*Forest Cutting Plans*

None

*Notifications*

None

*Hearings*

**6:10 p.m. RDA for a garage at 1446 Ashfield Rd.** Filed by Morton Builders.

Tony, Jeanne and Louise went on the site visit on July 14. The builders have moved the structure away from the BVA; installed silt fence. Seems well contained and is on previously disturbed land (yard). On a motion from Tony to recommend a Negative 2 decision on the RDA, Jeanne seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

**6:25 p.m. RDA for construction Rte. 116/79 Ashfield Rd. of four pedestrian curb ramps** to meet ADA/AAB standards. Filed by MassDOT

Sean said they were contacted by ? about the refurbishing the curb ramps which are within 200' of the road area. It's a trade-off between working in the impervious area on one side for improving the opposite side. On a motion from Tony to give a negative 2 determination for work within the area subject to the act, but that will not negatively impact the area, Mary Kay seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

**6:40 p.m. NOI for the 38A1 Distribution Line Rebuild/Reconductor project, No. Poland Rd., Conway.** Filed by BSC Group, Inc.

Chris with Eversource and Virginia with BSC said they would answer questions. Part of the upgrade is to replace existing lines and install some new poles. The area is subject to failures due to weather. They will increase the wire size along the lines, and are relocating poles from within the fields and wooded areas to bring them to the roadside. Most work is exempt under wetlands protection act. 24 tree removals are proposed from within the wetlands. Some poles are within the riverfront area/100' flood plain. 2 poles that cross over the stream would be exempt from Ch 91 regulations. Impacts expected: 12 sq ft within the flood plain; 4 sq within vegetated wetlands. 720 sq. ft. of aerial impact. The contractors will auger for the poles, backfill with removed soil, reused. There will be no soil placement into the wetland. All tree removal work to be conducted from the roadside and removed or chipped. No debris to be left. Best management practices will be followed to contain any soil from from the installation to be left to re-vegetate, or to be mulched and seeded. The timeline for this project is about 1 year.

Virginia said that they have coordinated with Natural Heritage. When asked about poles on private property, Chris said they go through a public hearing when needed.

Tony said commission members had walked the site on July 14. At the intersection with Rte. 116 there are a couple of areas in the RFA but the bridge is being replaced, so we were not able to view where the poles will be. However, it appears there is no appreciable disturbance. On a motion from Tony to approve the NOI, with conditions, Jeanne seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor. Copies of the NOI were signed and one given to the filers.

**6:55 p.m. NOI for the construction of a new residence, well and septic** within the 100' RFA and 50' BVW Buffer on 0 Shelburne Falls Road, Lot 68-410. Filed by Vincent Hohreiter, 255 Shelburne Falls Road, Conway, MA.

Tony asked to move the hearing to 6:45, as all other business had concluded by that time. Asked about the abbreviations being used, Tony explained: BVW: Border and Vegetative

Wetland - some things are allowed within this area. RFA - Riverfront Area - there is an inner 100' and an outer 100' - the state views it as a resource area, and it is measured from the stream bank.

Tony asked for a broad overview of the project, including DEP's points.

Tim explained the process as follows: First, the wetland scientist, Ward Smith, came out last fall to view the lot and identified where the edge of the wetland is. The surveyor then sets the bounds so that it's known where the wetland is. Next, the engineer provides a stamped drawing. The excavator and engineer do a soil analysis. They need to say what area within the project is within the 100' and 200' RFA. Tony explained that the RFA is a relatively new concept within the WPA. With the outer 100 there is more latitude; the inner 100' rules are more strict. The BOH, following state regulations, determines well and septic location. Conservation has the authority only to determine activities allowed within the RFA. A sock is staked into the ground once the soil is disturbed to keep sedimentation from affecting the area. If in a resource buffer, they need to show an effort to minimize the impact of the resource area. Asked why abutters are notified of the hearing, it was explained that if abutters are within 200' of the subject property, legally, they must be notified. It is their opportunity to attend and voice their concerns at a public hearing. The Zoning Board sets side and rear setbacks and where you can build. On the recommendation of the Conservation Commission, the builders moved the structure to be in compliance.

National Heritage concerns would be the presence of wood turtles in regard to the time of implementation. Chance is small for this project that there would be issues about the nesting period. On a motion from Tony to approve the NOI with general conditions and conditions from National Heritage, Mary Kay seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

*Other Unannounced Business*  
None

Next Meeting: August 12, 6:00 p.m. Town Hall, 5 Academy Hill Road, General Purpose Room.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held in person at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall, General Purpose Room, 5 Academy Hill Road.

At 7:03, on a motion from Tony to adjourn, Louise seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.'