

**Conway Conservation Commission Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, General Purpose Room, 5 Academy Hill Road**

**Present for the Commission:** Tony Somers, Chair; Louise Beckett, Mary Kay Costello, Jeanne Thomas

**Others Present:** Dusty King, George Forcier, Janet Chayes, Beth Girshman, Wendy Stayman, Jack Lochhead, Julia Washburn; Matt McKenna, Mike Abel, Baystate Forestry; Courtney Gilligan,

At 6:02 p.m. Tony brought the meeting to order.

On a motion from Tony to approve the Minutes of September 23, 2025, Louise seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

*Financial*

- Invoices for Reimbursement - None
- 09/30/25 Invoice from *Greenfield Recorder* for the period 09/01/25-09/30/25:  
09/05/2025 4448493 - So River Meadow Legal Notice \$90.91  
09/05/2025 4448494 - Shelburne Falls Rd Legal Notice \$90.91  
09/18/2025 4448753 - NOI - Ward Smith - George Forcie Legal Notice \$94.28  
09/18/2025 4448777 - RDA - 378 Old Cricket Hill Road Legal Notice \$107.74  
09/20/2025 4448939 - RDA - Craig/Janice Warner Legal Notice \$131. 31  
Total: \$514.84

On a motion from Tony to approve payment of the *Greenfield Recorder* invoice dated 09/30/25, Louise seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

- Fee payments received:  
08/04/25 - Sharyn & Victor Trombley, *Recorder* Inv. 4447488, Legal Ad, 97.64  
07/17/25 - BSC Companies, Inc., *Recorder* Inv. 4447116, Legal Ad, 44.62

On a motion from Tony to approve acceptance of legal ad payments of \$97.64 and \$44.62, Louise seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.

*Building Permits/Site Visits/Inquiries*

- Inquiries  
222 Elm Street, Dusty King, discuss RDA draft to install Solar Panels on Lawn

Tony said we'd need a map to show where on the property the panels will go. Dusty thought the south side would be better. Tony plans to meet with Dusty to go over the plan prior to the commission's voting on it. Impacts will depend on the siting. Dusty will stake the preferred location. Ideally he will be putting 8 panels in. The commission will do a site visit. This issue will be continued to the next meeting.

- Site Visits - none
- Permits - none

### *Forest Cutting Plans*

None

### *Notifications*

None

### *Hearings*

10 Pine Hill Road, George Forcier - update on plans for new residence on adjoining land.

George brought updated plan maps and shared the latest changes. Grades could be a problem. Need to stay outside of the 50' line because of the grade - the radius is quite large. Tony noted that the turning radius needs to be modified to stay outside of the 50'. Impacts on the 100' as well. Hearing to be continued to the next meeting contingent on George obtaining the information the commission has asked for.

### *Other Unannounced Business*

Janet Chayes - to explain the use of herbicides within a sensitive resource area given that in order to keep the knotweed out of this area would require perpetual herbicide application.

Janet started by saying that the point is to control knotweed so that native plants can grow. Riparian areas are most impacted by knotweed: its fibrous root system compromises biodiversity. Glyphosate is best for use near water as it doesn't move once it's down. Mary Kay asked as the treatment was started 8-10 years ago, how long will it be necessary? Matt responded that it may be necessary for a long time. Julia said that native plants support biodiversity, including animal/insect species, and native pollinators. Wendy noted that knotweed also causes erosion. Mary Kay asked if there has been a loss of habitat for wood turtles because of spraying, or if water quality has been affected. Jack said that hurricane Irene in 2011 washed the turtles down to Holyoke and that a study had been done by the State Glyphosate Commission. Jack asked if there was any possibility of keeping the project ongoing so they don't have to come back so often for approval. Tony said it's a matter of management: for yearly individual treatment, an NOI is not needed; but every three years, an RDA needs to be submitted.

Courtney Gilligan expressed willingness to join the Conservation Commission as a member. Tony will notify Véronique Blanchard, Town Administrator, to have the nomination put on the Selectboard's agenda.

### *Next Meeting - October 28, 2025*

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.

### *Adjourn*

At 7:30 p.m., on a motion from Tony to adjourn, Louise seconded, all said aye and the vote was unanimous in favor.