CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

April 8, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, 37 Green St

Attendees:	Chair Kristine Tardiff, Vice-Chair Jeff Lewis, Alternate Kevin Porter, Alternate Jim Owers, Rick Chormann, Mark Coen, Councilor Michele Horne, Katherine Healy and Tracey Lesser
Absent:	None
Staff:	Kearsten O'Brien, Senior Planner Beth Fenstermacher, Director of Special Projects
Public:	Ron Klemarczyk, contracted City Forester Andy Morrill Rob Morrill Jim Arsenault (71 Cottonwood Ave, Laconia)

1. Call to Order
   The meeting was called to order by Chair Tardiff at 7:00 p.m.

2. Minutes – Approve meeting minutes from meeting on March 11, 2026
   Member Chormann moved, Alternate Member Owers seconded, to approve the March 11, 2026 as written. All in favor. The motion passed.
3. New Business
   a. Locke Rd Update- Andy Morrill:
      Andy Morrill stated he read through the lease and at the end of 2026 there is the option for renewal for another five years. Andy Morrill stated this year they will seed 35 acres into an alfalfa crop. Andy Morrill stated he wants to renew for another five years and confirm there are no changes.

      Ms. Fenstermacher stated it is an automatic renewal unless either party has an issue.

      Andy Morrill stated they are putting 35 acres into alfalfa, 30 acres corn for silage and the balance seeded into hay crop for grass.

      Chair Tardiff asked if the alfalfa is a perianal so that will be several years.

      Andy Morrill noted he is hoping for about five years out of that crop.

      Chair Tardiff stated the Conservation Commission has not discussed changes or had any concerns raised about the lease.

      Ms. Fenstermacher stated it is a no action renewal.

      Andy Morrill noted there is an area with brush and chunks of granite that he would like to smooth it out.

      Chair Tardiff stated they should take a look at it.

Ms. O'Brien pulled the map to show the location being discussed.

Mr. Coen asked if they know what was there.

Andy Morrill thinks it was an old house foundation at one time.

Chair Tardiff asked if there are any historic issues.

Andy Morrill asked if there is a way to make a decision soon so he can move forward with planting.

Ms. Fenstermacher stated they will try to get an answer by the end of the week.

Chair Tardiff will have staff follow up with response.

b. DES Wetland Permit Application for Concord Country Club:

Ms. O'Brien noted they gave a wetland permit.

Vice-Chair Lewis noted they are dredging an existing pond. Vice-Chair Lewis stated he has no concerns.

Chair Tardiff noted they have no comment.

c. Up North Orienteers request to hold an orienteering event April 25, 2026 at Broken Ground:

Mr. Arsenault stated they received conditional approval for Broken Ground and it was a positive event there were no issues. It started in the morning and done by 4 p.m. Mr. Arsenault stated they want to try again on Saturday April 25th. They are expecting a higher turnout. There will be a three hour start window. There will be seven courses and all of the control locations will be different from last year. In the future they would like to do a mountain biking event or install a permeant course.

Chair Tardiff suggested they decide today on the event and later discuss the larger questions. Chair Tardiff asked staff if there were any concerns raised last year.

Ms. O'Brien responded no. They will want to reach out to the Code Department to get an event permit.

Mr. Arsenault stated he has that waiting to go.

Ms. Fenstermacher noted there are several locations on Unitil property and asked if he has reached out to Unitil for permission.

Mr. Arsenault stated he can do that.

Chair Tardiff suggested to have a motion for the April 25th event and move on to a discussion of other events.

Member Lesser made a motion to approve the event on April 25, 2026. Member Chormann seconded. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Tardiff asked for mountain bike orienteering would that go off trail.

Mr. Arsenault stated that will be on the trail.

Chair Tardiff stated the Conservation Commission would be hesitant to have mountain biking off trail due to sensitive areas.

Alternate Member Owers stated he would require them to stay on the trail.

Chair Tardiff asked to see a proposal. Chair Tardiff asked for Mr. Arsenault to talk through the DIY version.

Mr. Arsenault stated it is either a six by six placard that is white and orange on the diagonal that has a couple of codes. It gives them something tangible in the forest to know in the right spot.

Member Healy asked how many points would they have.

Mr. Arsenault stated 15 to 20 along the beginner trail and then in the woods for more advanced.

Councilor Horne asked how is the signage anchored.

Mr. Arsenault stated there is two ways one is aluminum nail or wrap a loose wire around the trunk.

Chair Tardiff suggested to test it for a year and access if they want to do it again. Chair Tardiff noted to put the placard where try to keep people going off trail. Chair Tardiff asked to see the mountaineering layout.

Vice-Chair Lewis stated they should see it every time and provide in advance as there could be trail closures.

4. Reports
    a. Trails Subcommittee – Jeff Lewis
    Vice-Chair Lewis noted they have started working on their goals, improvements, signs and website changes.

    b. Forestry
    Mr. Klemarczyk noted there was a small timber sale that was postponed due to conditions from

the winter and being too muddy. Mr. Klemarczyk has worked on the forest management plan that will be discussed at future meetings.

Chair Tardiff suggested to have these meetings in early morning or afternoon.

Ms. O'Brien will look at times and reach out to the Conservation Commission.

Vice-Chair Lewis asked if there are three people that want to volunteer and there were three members that will attend the workshop.

c. Tree Subcommittee update – Rick Chormann
Member Chormann noted there have been 10 trees donated by Unitil to be planted around the city. Member Chormann stated they are still focusing on invasive vines for education and control. Member Chormann noted they are accepting nominations for the tree champion award. There is an Arbor Day even April 22nd at Rollins Park

d. Local River Advisory Committees
There was nothing discussed on this agenda item.

e. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Mrs. O'Brien emailed the letter from DES regarding a reported alleged violation at 91 Oak Hill Road to the Conservation Commission.

f. City Open Space and Easements
Alternate Member Owers asked where at with the Kimball Lot.

Ms. O'Brien stated it going for signature she has signed the deed. Ms. O'Brien noted they are also working on the Brodeur lot.

Chair Tardiff asked about a letter for the Kimball lot.

Alternate Member Owers would like to send a one paragraph letter thanking for the donation from the Conservation Commission.

g. City Council/Planning Board
There was nothing to discussed on this agenda item.

5. Old Business
   a. New trail follow-up discussion (Richards Forest Trail, West End Farm Trail, northerly bypass, 16-foot easement trail follow-up discussion) Status of each, any outstanding items remaining to be done for the ones that are completed, permit status, installation of signage, etc.
   here was nothing discussed on this agenda item.

b. Joint meetings with abutting Towns:

Ms. O'Brien stated the Bow Conservation Commission will have a meeting May 18th at 7 p.m.

Vice Chair Lewis and Chair Tardiff stated they can attend the meeting.

Ms. O'Brien stated the Boscawen Conversation Commission will have a meeting May 19th at 6:30 p.m. The Hopkinton Conservation Commission meeting is the same night at 7 PM.

Chair Tardiff and Member Coen stated they can attend the Boscawen meeting and Member Porter and Vice Chair Lewis can attend the Hopkinton meeting.

Ms. O'Brien stated Pembroke Conservation Commission would like to meet June 8th at 7 p.m.

Member Porter stated he can attend the meeting.

6. Staff updates on items
Ms. Fenstermacher stated there is a student from UNH that will be starting in May and she will be doing GIS analysis for tree inventory of the entire city.

Chair Tardiff stated her and Vice-Chair Lewis will not be available for the May meeting and they will cancel the May meeting unless there is a conditional use permit application submitted for review.

7. Non-Public RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale or lease of real or personal property due to the circumstance it would render the proposed action ineffective.

On a motion made by Alternate Member Owers, seconded by Member Coen, the Conservation Commission voted to enter the non-public session at 8:47 p.m. by roll call vote 9 in favor (Chormann, Coen, Healy, Horne, Lesser, Lewis, Owers, Porter and Tardiff) 0 opposed. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion made by Alternate Member Owers, seconded by Member Chormann, the Conservation Commission voted to exit the non-public session at 9:03 p.m. by roll call vote 9 in favor (Chormann, Coen, Healy, Horne, Lesser, Lewis, Owers, Porter and Tardiff) to 0 opposed. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

On a motion made by Alternate Member Owers, seconded by Member Chormann, the Conservation Commission made a motion at 9:05 p.m. to seal the non-public meeting minutes due to render the proposed action ineffective by roll call vote 9 in favor (Chormann, Coen, Healy, Horne, Lesser, Lewis, Owers, Porter and Tardiff) to 0 opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Adjourn

Adjournment
Alternate Member Owers moved, seconded by Member Chormann, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Krista Tremblay
Krista Tremblay
Administrative Technician III
(Absent from meeting and minutes from recording of the meeting)