CONCORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES- Draft

October 14, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers, 37 Green St

Attendees:	Chair Kristine Tardiff, Vice-Chair Jeff Lewis, Kevin Porter, Alternate Jim Owers, Rick Chormann, Mark Coen, Councilor Michele Horne, Tracey Lesser and Alternate Member Bruce Currie
Absent:	Katherine Healy
Staff:	Kearsten O'Brien, Senior Planner Alec Bass, Assistant City Planner - Community Krista Tremblay, Administrative Technician III
Public:	Ron Klemarczyk, contracted City Forester

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 September 9,2026
   Member Coen moved, Member Chormann seconded, to approve the September 9, 2026 as amended correcting the spelling of "Bowser". All in favor. The motion passed.

3. Public Hearing regarding the discontinuance of the portion of the West End Farm Trail located at 74 Currier Rd.

   Chair Tardiff stated the Conservation Commission's role is to gather and consider relevant information regarding the request to discontinue the WEFT portion of the trail at 74 Currier Rd and then come to a decision at a future meeting. At the time that the September public hearing was scheduled, the Marro's had requested to continue the public hearing to October 14th as they were unable to attend the meeting. The Commission opened the public hearing for those who were able to attend to receive the public testimony and then, upon the advice of the City Solicitor's office, the commission moved and voted to continue the public hearing to a date certain of October 14th.

   The Trails Subcommittee adopted Procedural Guidelines for Discontinuance of a Trail or Trail Network. This is not a formal policy of the City of Concord, but a decision-making tool to assist with recommendations to the Conservation Commission. At the July 8 meeting, the Trails Subcommittee completed their information-gathering portion of the review process outlined in the Guidelines. At the August 12th Trails Subcommittee meeting the Subcommittee deliberated and made a recommendation to the Conservation Commission. The recommendation from the Trails Subcommittee is linked to the Conservation Commission agenda for this evenings meeting.

   The purpose of today's agenda item is conducting a public hearing to receive further public testimony regarding the request to discontinue the portion of the WEFT located at 74 Currier road. The Conservation Commission will consider the public testimony along with the information gathered by the

Trails Subcommittee before taking any final action on the request.

Chair Tardiff also emphasized that the Commission is not making the final decision regarding discontinuance of the West End Farm Trail until after the required public hearing is completed, and the Commission makes their final decision, which will not occur until a future meeting. Members of the Public will have 5 minutes to testify. Chair Tardiff stated that she will allow the Marro's additional time to give their testimony. Chair Tardiff read in testimony sent in from members of the public attached to the end of the meeting minutes.

Chair Tardiff opened the public hearing at 7:06 PM.

Mr. Marro of 76 Currier Rd, thanked the Conservation Commission for allowing them to be here and introduced his wife Beth Marro and their three dogs. Mr. and Mrs. Marro stated they brought three of their dogs that people are claiming attack people along the trail. Mrs. Marro stated that the dogs are therapy dogs and work with children with autism, elderly and people with disabilities. They wanted the public to see how the dogs behave.

Mr. Marro stated that he is here tonight to ask the Commission to seriously consider discontinuing or relocating the trail immediately behind their property. Mr. Marro stated in the past he never asked to close the section, and that he asked to close the parking lot. Mr. Marro stated that they requested to close the trial if the City of Concord was unable to offer mitigating or some sort of solutions to the problems. Mr. Marro stated since 2019 they have been dealing with the City through his attorney to the City's Solicitors Office to try and come up with solutions to the problem and nothing has been done to this day. He stated that he has attended many meetings and City Council Member Stacey Brown can attest, that there was a list of things in place that the City Trail Subcommittee had to resolve and only two signs were put up stating the property is under Surveillance. Mr. Marro stated that they were supposed to put up hours of operation and stated there was discussion about a fence and putting a gate at the parking lot to limit the hours.

Mr. Marro stated that for years they have evidence and showed pictures at the meeting of the problems taking place. Mr. Marro stated that he is asking that they consider rerouting or coming up with solutions to the problems. Mr. Marro stated that he is not in objection to trails or outdoor recreation at all, unlike what people have made him out to be. He stated that none of the people know the facts and are telling lies as written about him in testimonies. Mr. Marro asked the Commission if they could provide the date of when the City acquired the property. Alternate-Member Owers said 2010. Mrs. Marro asked if anyone on the Commission knew when Mr. Marro purchased the house. Alternate-Member Owers stated 2003 and there was already a trail on the property.

Mr. Marro stated that yes there was a snowmobile trail that was by kind permission of land owners. The trail traveled through the Marro's property. Mr. Marro stated that in 2019 after being unable to negotiate with City through his attorney, had shut down the section of the trail that was on his property, as his right

as a landowner. Mr. Marro asked that people who are landowners think about how they would feel if they had a trail on their property without permission that the City had brought in heavy equipment to widen the trail, without permission. Mr. Marro stated that he had tried to negotiate with the City and the City wanted nothing to do with it and they were done. Mr. Marro said that he would like to correct the record that he did close the portion of the trail down that went through his property.

Mr. Marro stated that he did purchase the property in 2003 and this matter has managed to divide his neighbors and himself and they have been friends for 21 years. He stated that he has always been a good neighbor he would plow their driveway when they were away, without them asking. Mr. Marro stated the City acquired the land in 2010 there was an established snowmobile trail that was allowed by the landowners. In the past the Snowmobile club would come to him and it was never a problem until last year. Mr. Marro stated that some of the public comment states that they moved to the property know that they knew there was a trail there prior to them purchasing the property and that is incorrect, he purchased it prior to the trail being there. Mr. Marro stated that he is asking the Conservation Commission to examine the underlying records rather than to assume the present route was properly evaluated from the beginning. Mr. Marro stated that they are the only home on that section of the trail.

Mr. Marro stated that there are signs in place that specifically state that there are no motorized vehicles on the property. Mr. Marro stated there are no exclusions allowing for certain people to drive on the trail. Mr. Marro stated there are private vehicles that drive up and down the trail such as the snowmobile club, people contracted through the city and, people on motorized bicycles. Mr. Marro stated they have found litter, unleashed dogs and yes dogs can be off leash on conservation land but it also states to respect land owners and to put their dogs on a leash while walking by homes. He stated that many people do not do that and they have had dogs run into their yard. Mrs. Marro stated that one of their dogs have been attacked by another dog not on a leash and it had been documented with the vet and police. Mr. Marro stated the police were unable to help after a response time of 4 hours.

Mr. Marro stated that people are suggesting that they have their dogs on leashes, but it is ok for people walking the trail to have their dogs off leash while walking on the trail and that is nonsense. Mr. Marro stated that yes, his dogs bark while people walk the trail. He stated that most people know if they own a dog that yes dogs bark when somebody is in your front or back yard. He stated that people take pictures of his house while walking on the trail. Mrs. Marro stated that they had an incident today where she had to call the police because they were being harassed. Mr. Marro stated that at the July meeting he was allowed to speak and he had asked questions that were in regards to the City's Trails Master Plan and how they handle issues on the trail. He stated that the Commission should have the questions. Mr. Marro stated that has never happened with them. Mrs. Marro stated that they were told they would have answers to their questions by August and they have never received them. Mr. Marro stated that when they were at the Trails Subcommittee meeting in August they were told they were not allowed to speak and it was not open for public comment. Mr. Marro stated that at the Trails Subcommittee a member of the subcommittee had raised his hand and said this is one of Concord's most beloved trails and is a heavily used trail and I love the overlook and who agrees with me. Mr. Marro stated that one of the other

members of the trail's subcommittee stated that they agreed that it is a heavily used trail. Mr. Marro said that he documented 31 days prior to that meeting of trail usages. He stated that he documented whether they were male or female users, if they had dogs and even documented other wildlife. Mr. Marro stated that he provided the data in an excel spread sheet and he also provided data regarding the parking lot. He stated that is it very rarely used as an area for to people to park using the trail. He stated it is mainly an area for people to hang out and for people to turn around in.

Mr. Marro stated that not one of the commission members or City Council members or Councilor's -At-Large members who said they would communicate with him and never heard from them again. Chair Tardiff stated that the only question before the Commission tonight is the trail and that she understands the parking lot is linked to the trail but they are discussing the discontinuance of the trail. Mr. Marro stated that he provided 31 days of data regarding the trail and the City has not provided any regarding their claims regarding most beloved trail. Mr. Marro said that this is their sanctuary and yes, they are angry and upset tonight, not only in how they have been treated but also in how they have been portrayed in social media and newspaper.

Mr. Marro stated that a gentleman by the name of Sam Evans-Brown who wrote a letter to the editor. Chair Tardiff stated that the letters to the editor are not part testimony. Mr. and Mrs. Marro stated it is because this is where people are getting their information about them from. Especially people who do not live in the city have been allowed to speak and submit testimony. Mrs. Marro asked why the commission is considering their testimony when they do not even reside here. Chair Tardiff stated this is a public hearing and anyone here can testify and ask where people are from. Mr. Marro said he brings up Sam Evans- Brown because he wrote something and published it the Concord Monitor that is not factual and essentially lies and people took that and wrote letters to the commission and posted on social media to jump on the band wagon to be against them. Mr. Marro asked what the policy was regarding receiving comments from people who do not reside in Concord.

Chair Tardiff stated that the City may have one and at meetings she has been to at the City people are allowed to come through and testify and are asked to identify where they are from. Chair Tardiff stated that the Commission will not be excluding public testimony. Councilor Horne stated that they do allow public testimony of non- residents because they work, recreate, etc. and are allowed to testify. Mr. Marro asked if she was 100% sure that is with in the City's rules. Councilor Horne stated yes. Mr. Marro asked Councilor Horne to provide him that information in writing.

Mr. Marro stated that where the City is failing is that he began by asking the City to close the parking lot. He stated that where it became a trail problem is more on the City than him. Mr. Marro stated that if the City can not properly maintain and control what goes on, on the trail or in the parking lot then to do something about or close it. Mr. Marro presented the commission during his testimony pictures of misuse on the trail such as people using the parking lot and his property as a bathroom, teenagers and adults giving his camera the middle finger, vehicles driving up the trail, a person releasing an animal on the trail, litter, people attaching political signs to their vehicles and facing them towards his property, litter of sex

toys, bikes using the trail where it states no bikes allowed. Mr. Marro stated that there are signs that say no bikes allowed without written permission by the landowners, and yet there are people using with trail with bikes. Mrs. Marro stated that because of the commission they are being harassed by people using the trail. Mrs. Marro stated that at the last meeting someone suggested using bear spray, and if anyone uses bear spray on their dogs they will hear about it. Mr. Marro stated that they are looked as monsters of the neighborhood.

Mr. Marro stated that according to Ms. Ross no one is allowed to ride on their property and she stated that for him this evening. Member Coen stated that he thinks that the Marro's have made their point and would like to know their recommendation of what they would like to see. Mr. Marro stated if you can not enforce the law or monitor it then either reroute it and if you can not reroute it then close that portion of the WEFT down. Mr. Marro stated he would like to see hours of operation enforceable and a gate on the parking lot to prevent vehicles and illegal activity from happening in the parking lot after hours. Mr. Marro stated he asked for a fence years ago. Member Coen asked if Mr. Marro was allowed to put up a fence. Mrs. Marro stated why should they have to pay for it, they were there first so they shouldn't have to. Mr. Marro stated he isn't the bad neighbor but yes, he could. Member. Coen went over the recommendations of the Marro's to resolve the issues, they would like a gate at the parking lot and hours of operation that are enforceable, to either reroute the trail if the city can not enforce or monitor the trail and if they can not to discontinue the trail. Mr. Marro stated that is correct and he would like to see fence be put up in that section to prevent people from looking into their property and from dogs wandering onto their property. Member Coen thanked them for testifying.

Mr. Marro stated that he talked a little about the trails plan that the commission has not followed, proven to follow, and have not answered the questions I asked. He asked the commission to answer the questions and was promised them. Mr. Marro stated the Trails Subcommittee has created situations where if you are friends with them or bike member buddies with them you can speak, but if a member of the public tries to speak you are shut down. Mr. Marro stated that is not okay it is a double standard and is not acceptable. He stated that at the September trails meeting a member of a bike club was allowed to speak but the month prior when he tried to speak he was shut down. Alternate Member Owers asked for a picture of his house from the trail because he is trying to envision where the fence would go. Mr. Marro stated the trail would be best placed along the trail because you would need to cut down the trees.

Chair Tardiff asked the Marro's if their request for fencing was along the whole boundary. The Marro's said yes along the whole boundary. Chair Tardiff asked if they are looking for visual barriers. Mr. Marro said it could be visual for all the looky-loos or people who like to take pictures and said the rest of it can be a simple chicken wire fence. Mr. Marro said he contacted the people who sent in letters to speak with him and talk to him about the issues he is facing and not one of them contacted him. Mr. Marro said that it appears that there is a conflict of interest of members of the trails subcommittee who are part of NEMBA and State Nine Racing. Mr. Marro stated these are people who should be excluding themselves from recommendations when the recommendations benefit them. Mr. Marro said there should be an honest look of these members and asked the commission to look into the members. Mr. Marro stated that

he wants peace and quiet for all.

Ron Klemarzyk the City's consulting Forester clarified a few things, he said the subdivision survey from when the subdivision occurred showed the trail on the property when the city acquired it. The City then surveyed to make sure the boundaries were correct and they were not. The city then corrected the issue and relocated the trail off the property. Mr. Klemarzyk stated there are signs out there that say no bicycles but those are on the Rossview property and what he understands is that bicycles are allowed all the way from District #5 Rd all the way down to Currier Rd. The split rail fence was donated by the abutter of the Rossview property and that is not the property line the property line for the Rossview property is an old fence that was blazed by the surveyor who surveyed the property for the conservation easement. The Sewalls Falls property is State property and that is why there is hours of operation at that site.

Boyd Smith of 139 Liberty St, came to testify in favor of keeping the trail. Mr. Smith stated that he has been using the trail for about 20 years or so and has beautiful natural resources. Mr. Smith stated he heard their concerns regarding misuse of the trail and respect their right to enjoy their property. There are some enforcement issues that need to be monitored by the City and he understands that can be a burden to the city. Mr. Smith stated if the land is owned by the City we should use it as a trail and take care of it. The trail system in Concord is remarkable and we can not have the issues they discussed taking place and that is something that should be taken care of and we should not close the trail down.

Scott Betournay said he resides in Concord and said he loves the WEFT and there is a wonderful view that looks over a pond that he likes to run and walk to and would appreciate the trail staying open.

Stephen Murray a resident of Concord said that he has walked that trail hundreds of times and he has been harassed by their dogs while walking his dog. Mr. Murray said the dogs that harassed him were not the ones that attended the meeting so either those are props or they are new dogs. Mr. Murray said it is a great trail and being bullied by the people to close the trail is inappropriate.

Sean Reese of 35 Timberline Dr stated Concord has many trails and this portion of the trail is not the only portion that people litter or are vagrants, that occurs across the City. Mr. Reese stated that the City should consider how those issues are handled at other areas that are similar. Mr. Reese said that it is his understanding that we don't go directly for shutting down a trail when a compliant comes through. He stated that the City should not exceed to the land owner because it will set a precedent to other property owners who abut trails.

Kate Kellenier of 126 South St state that she walks her dog there and would hate for it to be shut down. She hopes that we can find some common ground.

Roland Berube of 8 Spaulding St, said that he has a lot of sympathy for the Marro's hearing them attest to what they go through. He can not personally attest that is what they go through and has to take their word for what they say. Mr. Berube said as a person who uses that trail he needs that parking lot and it is

inconvenient because he would have to park on the side of the road. He likes to snowshoe out onto the ponds because they are frozen at that point. He is glad the city mitigated the issue of the trail being on his property. Mr. Berube said he cannot condone or stop other hikers or bikers from the use of the trail. Mr. Berube said that he was the trail administrator for the Bow Pioneers and it is an important corridor for snowmobilers to travel. He would hate for the trail to be closed and that opportunity to go away as well. Mr. Berube said he has not seen trash or vagrants using the trial. He can speak to the signs as you see when you park in the parking lot and he said that there is a political sign posted from their property and some of the people could be responding to that. Mr. Berube asked that the City work with them to get their privacy back and not close the trail.

Chair Tardiff closed the public hearing.

Chair Tardiff said they are not going to deliberate tonight and will discuss at their November meeting and take all testimony into consideration.

4. New Business
    a. Memorial Bench -Jennifer Goodman
    Ms. O'Brien stated this was brought before the Commission. It was then deferred to the Trails Subcommittee and they had a discussion. The consensus after discussion with the city forester that there is a bench at Winant Park that needs to be replaced. The proposal is that Jennifer Goodman will cover the cost of the new bench. If the Commission is ok with that a motion and vote would be needed to proceed. Then Ms. O'Brien will notify Jennifer Goodman that she can move forward with the bench.

    Chair Tardiff noted for the Commission they have had prior discussion on the bench.

    On a motion made by Member Porter, seconded by Vice Chair Lewis, the Conservation Commission voted to approve the acceptance of funding and installation of a memorial bench. All in favor. The motion passed.

    b. Planning Board CUP (2026-087)- 52 Locke Rd
    Vice-Chair Lewis recused due to conflict with work.

    Randal Shuey (119 Storrs St, Concord) is present to represent this application. Mr. Shuey presented a restoration plan for wetland buffer that was logged in 2025. Mr. Shuey noted they were before the Commission in April to discuss the restoration plan for the buffer in conjunction with a flexible development of industrial and warehouse storage. The developer has since decided to do a micro data center. The center of the property at the end of Locke Rd there is an existing gravel road that goes onto the adjacent property that leads for a cell tower. This is on undeveloped land. The owner of the property had it logged down to wetland boundary. Which was flagged prior to them doing their work. The owner was notified by

Northpoint Engineering that the city has a 50-foot buffer off the wetland and as a part of the plan they will need to come up with a restoration plan. Mr. Shuey presented the existing condition and to the north it is flat with a couple stock piles. The south side of the road has a little steeper slope. There is a wetland on both the north and south sides of the road. The south side of the road is a forested wetland. The north side is scrub and shrub wetland. When were before the Commission in April there is a little wetland impact on the southern side line. On Locke Road there is a drainage ditch and they have drawn a 50-foot buffer around that. The current plan has the entire southern side of the road being undeveloped. They have submitted a detailed planting plan to restore the buffer.

Chair Tardiff asked on the restoration land that is consistent with the conversation in April. Chair Tardiff asked aside from the restoration are there other impacts to the wetland buffer from the retention basin.

Mr. Shuey stated all of the grading for the project is outside of the 50-foot buffer.

Mr. Bass noted the emergency over flow spillway of one of the retention pond would lead in that area.

Member Lesser raised a question about the emergency spill way on the storm water retention basin and asked if that is cooling water from the data center or just surface water and run off from the roofs and parking.

Mr. Shuey stated that is not a cooling water retention pond it is a storm water pond.

Chair Tardiff noted it appears to function like a storm water retention basin.

Mr. Shuey noted that part of the property on the northern side has good sand and filtration.

Member Coen moved, Member Porter seconded, to recommend the Planning Board approve as submitted. All in favor. The motion passed.

Vice-Chair Lewis arrived back in the room as a voting member.

c. Planning Board CUP (2026-091)- 7 Rectory Rd (**Continued to November 10th)**

d. Planning Board CUP (2026-092)- 270 Loudon Rd
Huston Hubbard (100 Domain Dr Ste 201, Exeter) and Doug Richardson (40 Franklin St, Needham MA) are present to represent this application. Mr. Richardson stated this is the first site plan application for development on the northeast corner. There will be 110 units in a four-story building.

Mr. Hubbard stated this project will redevelop the existing parking lot as the malls snow dump area. Mr. Hubbard noted the project proposes roughly 1900 square feet of wetland buffer impact. The impact area will be revegetated. The reason for the buffer impact is they know the contractor will need to have space to get around the structure. The existing parking lot does provide some storm water collection, treatment and infiltration. The proposed storm water design has a closed drain system connect to a hydrodynamic separator. The water line will connect to the mall existing drainage system.

Member Porter asked for explanation on the hydrodynamic separator.

Mr. Hubbard stated it is used for pretreatment for the water they collect on site and will separate suspended solids of water to the infiltration system. Then that will go to the drainage system. The roof drains tie into the system.

Chair Tardiff asked for clarity on the proposal is and asked if this will be a temporary impact to the buffer during construction.

Mr. Hubbard replied yes, the intent is to restore and revegetate.

Mr. Richardson pointed out there are no exterior doors on that side of the building.

Chair Tardiff asked if there will be a path or access path for use.

Mr. Hubbard noted there is a path on the east side of the building.

Vice-Chair Lewis pointed out there is a sewer line with a sewer easement and that is downhill of the proposed impact.

Member Coen moved, Vice-Chair Lewis seconded, to recommend the Planning Board approve as submitted. All in favor. The motion passed.

5. Reports
    a. Trails Subcommittee – Jeff Lewis
    Vice-Chair Lewis noted Mr. Klemarczyk provided an update on the forestry report that is attached to the agenda. Mr. Matson provided update on the easement monitoring. Vice-Chair Lewis suggested for some information to come to the Conservation Commission. Vice-Chair Lewis stated the subcommittee is looking for date for a trail appreciation of trail stewards at Carter Hill in the coming months. The Trails Subcommittee is finishing the trail guide description updates. They have finished the Concord Trails Plan with discussions at their meeting. There are up coming hikes at Winant Park and Broken Ground.

    Ms. O'Brien stated they cancelled the November meeting. Ms. O'Brien reminded the Commission that the next meeting is Tuesday November 10, 2026.

    b. Tree Subcommittee update – Rick Chormann

Member Chormann suggested to go see Ethan Tapper, October 24th, at the book signing or walking tour it is well worth it. The information was sent out by Ms. O'Brien.

c. Forestry Report
Member Porter stated a year ago there was discussion on the NE Forestry Foundation. Member Porter noted they will not make the deadline. Member Porter asked to get on agenda the forest management plan for discussion.

Ms. O'Brien will be meeting with city staff to review what is proposed on the forest management plan. Once that is done it will go to the Conservation Commission for review and then City Council.

Chair Tardiff suggested at a later date to have a three-member group to review and then report back to the Commission.

d. City Open Space and Easements
There was nothing discussed on this agenda item.

e. City Council/Planning Board
Councilor Horne noted the Concord School District is selling three properties and that will be on the ballot for next year.
    i. Master Plan Subcommittee Member Recommendation
    Ms. O'Brien stated last month this was discussed to have the two board members recommend a regular member and alternate member that will work with the Planning Board Advisory for the master plan.

    Member Lesser volunteered to be a member.

    Alternate Member Currie volunteered to be an alternate member.

    Vice-Chair Lewis made a motion to nominate Member Lesser to be a regular member and Alternate Member Currie as an alternate member for the Planning Board Advisory. Member Porter seconded. All in favor. The motion passed.

6. Old Business
    a. Progress Report (Richards Forest Trail, West End Farm Trail, 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.
    There was nothing to report on this agenda item.

    b. Joint meetings with surrounding Conservation Commissions

Ms. O'Brien stated Webster and Chichester she has not been able to set a date. There was communication from Bow that they want to have a round table discussion. Ms. O'Brien noted Canterbury was interested in a round table as well.

Vice-Chair Lewis noted Hopkinton has reached out as well.

Ms. O'Brien asked the Commission how do they want to proceed.

Chair Tardiff noted Canterbury does not have any support and they are engaged. Canterbury is discussing class 6 road and trails. There was discussion on properties on abutting land for conservation.

Member Chormann noted there was discussion on invasive species.

Vice-Chair Lewis suggested to nominate one person from the Commission to go to a round table.

Ms. O'Brien suggested to invite them to the Conservation Committee meeting for discussion on how to proceed.

Chair Tardiff suggested to do outreach by email. Chair Tardiff noted there were a couple of groups that offered to host.

7. Staff updates on items
    a. Bois De Brodeur Signage at parcel
    Ms. O'Brien noted this parcel has been acquired through donation. There is an existing sign that Mr. Brodeur wants to keep out there. Mr. Brodeur wants to make sure the Conservation Commission is ok with keeping the existing signs.

    Member Lesser noted it is a nice sign.

    Chair Tardiff will write a letter to send to Mr. Brodeur thanking for the land donation.

    Member Lesser moved, Member Chormann seconded, to approve keeping the existing signs on the property. All in favor. The motion passed.

    b. Dead Tree Removal quote
    Ms. O'Brien stated there are some trees that are hazardous and need the removal of nine trees on the parking lot of the Marjorie Swope Trail. The trees will be removed. All brush will be flare removed. The quote $3750. Mr. O'Brien and asked if the Conservation Commission is ok with spending the funds.

Member Porter noted dead wood is important to the forest. Member Porter asked any trees can be left in the woods and if it would reduce the cost. Member Porter also suggested for residents to harvest the trees for home heating.

Chair Tardiff noted there are follow up questions on the quote based on the work and if trees can remain.

Ms. O'Brien will ask the question and report back to the Conservation Commission.

8. Adjourn

Adjournment
Member Lesser moved, seconded by Member Coen to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Krista Tremblay
Krista Tremblay
Administrative Technician III

O'Brien, Kearsten

From: Mary Wilke
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 2:45 PM
To: O'Brien, Kearsten
Subject: How can I contact members of the Conservation Commission?

[CAUTION: *This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe*]

Hello,

I'd like to send a message to the members of the Conservation Commission, but don't know how to do so. Are you able to forward this to them, or to send me their contact info?

I' read the article in today's newspaper about the West End Farm Trail, and the comment by the abutting owner that so few people use the trail that he shouldn't have to put up with the harm he says he experiences by having the trail open to the public. I imagine I speak for many when I say I used to walk on that trail regularly, but his dogs made it feel unsafe for me, as did reports I read in the paper about gunfire and his yelling at people passing by. So whatever number someone comes up with by counting how many people are now using the trail isn't a fair reflection of how many would use it if he were not so hostile.

Sincerely,
Mary Wilke, Concord

O'Brien, Kearsten

From: jmassa
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 2:49 PM
To: O'Brien, Kearsten
Subject: Please forward to Kristine Tardiff re Lot or Trail closure at Currier Rd

[CAUTION: *This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe*]

Kearsten & Kristine, I want to make sure my input on this issue is added to the record clearly as my spoken testimony may have been unclear. I am a taxpaying homeowner residing in Concord & I vote. I am an avid trail user and serve on the Trails Committee.

1. I oppose any closure of the parking lot or section of West End Farm trail and or snowmobile trail at Currier Rd.
2. I oppose using city funds to mitigate the perceived nuisance that the lot or trail creates, except for trail cams to monitor trail vandalism along the property line.
3. I believe the more important issue here is the vandalism, harassment and intimidation tactics being used by the abutters to drive users away from this area. This needs to be addressed by law enforcement. I realize they have plausible deniability for the timing of the gunfire and there is no proof that they threw the branches and yard waste from their yard onto the trail, or purposely cut down trees onto the trail to sabotage the snowmobilers. They were witnessed plowing snow into the lot.
4. I am concerned why Councilor Stacy Brown is advocating so strongly for the Marro's. Neighbor Jane Landry who shares a driveway with the Marro's and is clearly intimidated by their antics is also a constituent of Ms. Brown, but Ms. Brown is not advocating for her in any way.

Abutter James Jastrzebski noted that any trail user noise was never more "a momentary inconvenience" & Susan Woods commented how this situation is embarrassing for Concord.
Unfortunately in more populated areas there are constant reminders of how much work human relationships can be. It would be a travesty to close the parking lot to make the Marro's stop their harassment. This is a public resource that deserves to be defended.

Jason Massa
South St
Concord

O'Brien, Kearsten

From: Sam Pike
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 3:24 PM
To: O'Brien, Kearsten
Subject: Conservation Commission: West End Farm Trail

[CAUTION: *This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe*]

Hello,

I'd love to have a short testimony for the West End Farm trail.

That trailhead is one of the best hidden gems in Concord, and it'd be an absolute shame to take it away, and the logic for taking it away could go for almost any park/trail in Concord. I see drug deals at the Rollins Park parking lot, should we shut down the park? I see unhoused people at the Winant Park trail head, should we shut that down? Most people that have a car and get to the West End Farm trail are just nature enjoyers. Its a gorgeous trail, with its only downside being next to a "gun range" that goes off whenever someone parks there. There is no legal reason it can't be there, and would be a loss for our community if it went away.

Thanks,
Sam Pike

O'Brien, Kearsten

From: Walsh, Matthew
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 4:37 PM
To: O'Brien, Kearsten
Cc: Champlin, Byron; Michelline Dufort
Subject: FW: West End Farm Trail

Kearsten -
Please share below with Conservation Commission about concerns relative to the West End Farm Trail.
Best Regards,
Matt Walsh
Deputy City Manager - Development

City of Concord
41 Green Street, Concord NH 03301
(603) 225-8595
mwalsh@concordnh.gov
www.concordnh.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Michelline Dufort
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 9:27 AM
To: Champlin, Byron <BChamplin@ConcordNH.gov>; BYRON CHAMPLIN <chamby@comcast.net>; Walsh, Matthew <MWalsh@ConcordNH.gov>
Subject: RE: West End Farm Trail?

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Ah-hah. Sounds like my experience was timely. https://www.concordmonitor.com/2026/10/13/west-end-farm-trail-facing-potential-closure-after-long-running-dispute/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newspack+Newsletter+%28401575%29&utm_source=3&npnl=NDAxNTc1fDY0NTBmMTcwNzljMjgzNmNhYzQ3Y2ZiMmU3MmIxMTgzM2UzNGQwMjY5M2ZjMDVlNzRmNDhkNzBiODI4NzMxZGM&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Fate%20of%20the%20West%20End%20Farm%20Trail&utm_campaign=Newspack%20Newsletter%20%28401575%29&vgo_ee=5WHAP7l1VzcPC5PVTp%2F6WMqU4vmqF8%2FSOLPE1wkQ2kYZUiHXXxbIIHw26sU%3D%3AW%2FELFEfaGJxax6l2zCcoZY86mqspFhkh

I don't see Beth cc'd in here, but I'd be glad to share. I see that there's a conservation committee meeting tonight on this. I have a business commitment in Portsmouth, so cannot be there.

However, I can not stress enough that in the many years and multiple times I have walked this WEFT since it 'opened' I have never witnessed anyone but true trail lovers (usually of my age!) who stay on trail, are quietly talking and none of the antics mentioned in this article.

I'd be glad to add my voice and or experience in any way, including the absolute confusion we experienced on the trail this past weekend. There are dogs, in a big pen that were barking at us like crazy. We have seen the political signs. Other times have heard the loud and disturbing music and many signs - both political and also threatening. One year a skeleton was hanging in a noose. And always now notifications of 'video being taken' (Is a person allowed to take video

without permission when someone is not actually on their land?) And many trail walking friends have talked about being threatened, including one was approached by an individual with a gun. Another has a dog jump at them snarling.

If those abutters to the trail are trying to discourage folks from walking, they are doing a good job. We did not see one other person the whole day.

It's a shame in every way that this will probably go away, what a beautiful concept this was.

It's a shame, as well, that the abutters are trying to make a public case that people were abusing it, when I just don't believe that's true. Since they say in their signs that they have 24 hour video, perhaps that should be examined before they get their way on that claim? Instead, if they just simply changed their minds, well, they should own that. And be aware that the abatement will then go away (one can assume.)

Please feel free to share with Beth and anyone else.

Michelline Dufort
Executive Director
CEO & Family Enterprise Center
Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics University of New Hampshire
10 Garrison Avenue, Room 265C
Michelline.dufort@unh.edu
o. 603.862.1107
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Connect with me on LinkedIn!

-----Original Message-----
From: Champlin, Byron <BChamplin@ConcordNH.gov>
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 9:14 AM
To: Michelline Dufort <Michelline.Dufort@unh.edu>; BYRON CHAMPLIN <chamby@comcast.net>; Walsh, Matthew <MWalsh@ConcordNH.gov>
Subject: Re: West End Farm Trail?

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Hi Micheline:

I'm going to defer to Matt to respond when he's back in the office. I'm familiar with the longstanding issues with the Ross family (and also the Marros more recently on another section of the trail) but I'm not up to speed on the current trail pattern at the Rossview segment.

I'm also copying Special Projects Director Beth Fenstermacher, who I believe staffs the Conservation Commission's Trails Subcommittee.

Byron

Byron O. Champlin

Mayor, City of Concord, N.H.

(603) 228-0097

BChamplin@concordnh.gov

From: Michelline Dufort
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 7:24:33 AM
To: BYRON CHAMPLIN; Champlin, Byron; Walsh, Matthew
Subject: FW: West End Farm Trail?

[CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe] Hello Gentlemen,

See below. Tim Sink and I walked the West End Farm Trail over the weekend and got completely stymied through the Rossview Farm section. We ended up adding on 3 miles of a road walk just to get back to our car at Carter Hill (Byron, you can ask Tim how his 10 miler walk was next time you see him ;)

I reached out to the 5 Rivers Conservation Trust for guidance and an update, but I know it is probably a city issue too. No secret that it's been a debated topic with the Ross family, and although every year there have been trail diversions, what we tried to follow on Saturday was a complete looping back and block from finishing the Trail. We ran into a homeowner on District 5 who basically said the same; no one walks it anymore because no one can follow it.

What is the status? Is the WEFT now closed for that whole section? Do the landowners still enjoy a tax abatement?

It's a shame, the whole WEFT was such a treasure.

Michelline Dufort
Executive Director
CEO & Family Enterprise Center
Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics University of New Hampshire
10 Garrison Avenue, Room 265C

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From: Michelline Dufort
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2026 7:17 AM
To: 'liz@5rct.org' <liz@5rct.org>
Subject: West End Farm Trail?

Hello Liz,

Thank you for your work; the Trust has done amazing things. Years ago I was living in West Concord and was among the supporters of one of the projects - the land off of Stickney Hill Road at Maplewood Farm that helped tie into the whole West End Farm Trail project.

We now live off of Silk Farm Road and are constant trail walkers all over Concord, every section we can just about every day.

I am reaching out since we tried to walk the West End Farm Trail this past weekend. It's something I have done multiple times over the years. Although I am aware and have experienced the diversions around the Rossview Farm section, what I experienced is worse than I thought to the point that we actually got stymied at District 5 Road and had no options but to road walk to Carter Hill, which is where we dropped a car.

Is this still considered a 5RCT project? The West End Farm Trail signs and the 5RCT signs were all over sections, so I am checking if that's still the case. The signs indicated changes, but even with that, the trail brought us back west over a section that usually was an eastern connector to the woods towards Carter Hill. As an avid hiker and trail walker (grew up in the northern ADKs and have done all of the NH48'ers many times over) I usually don't have any issues following a trail but this one, given the Rossview changes, had us completely turned around. All ended fine, although it added about a 3 mile road walk to our day. My concern is more for folks who are not familiar with the area or comfortable with along woods walks; such a maze might have turned out an issue in either of those scenarios (also the road walk on that stretch of country road is not for the faint of heart with the lack of shoulders and speeding country road traffic.)

If this is not still under the 5RCT, just point me to whom I can inquire/notify about the confusion. Perhaps it's a city issue now? I will reach out there as well for guidance. Perhaps the whole WEFT is now a thing of the past? We did not see one other person on a beautiful Columbus Day Saturday- right there I should have realized things had changed!

The good news is that the Audubon, Maplewood and Dimond Hill sections are still as beautiful, calm and welcoming as always. We even ran into the new generation operators of Dimond Hill and are thrilled to hear they will be getting back into the Farm Stand business next summer. The fields along there, and the views from Dimond Hill, are stunning.

Thank you for any enlightenment you have on this (former?) jewel of a stretch! I just want to be better prepared next time, especially when it comes to a car drop.

Michelline

Michelline Dufort
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CEO & Family Enterprise Center
Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics University of New Hampshire
10 Garrison Avenue, Room 265C

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Connect with me on LinkedIn!

Oct. 12, 2026

Dear Concord Conservation Commission members,

I am writing to update my opposition to closing the West End Farm Trail (WEFT) and parking lot north of Currier Road. I attended the Commission's Sept. 9 hearing and was surprised that every speaker (as well as those who have submitted written comments to date), with the exception of City Councilor Stacey Brown, not only opposed the closure, but sounded some familiar, troubling themes.

I have since reviewed meeting minutes, correspondence and comments from the Conservation Commission and Trails Subcommittee, as well as public records from the Concord Police, and have concluded that there simply is not enough evidence to justify closing this important trail access to the public. Key points:

Opposition to a fence

I no longer support a proposal to build a fence at the city's expense along the abutting property of Rene Marro. This would set a costly precedent open to every abutter of a public trail or park in our city. At the Commission's Feb. 11, 2026 meeting, Mr. Marro also said that a fence would not solve his issues with noise, or with loose dogs on his property.

Public safety concerns, records: A two-way street

In January 2024, Rene Marro wrote to City Councilor Stacey Brown that, "What goes on regularly on this trail has literally made our home a miserable place to be," noting that trail users frequently leave trash, create loud noise, allow their dogs to run loose onto his property and harass and attack his dogs, defecate and urinate on the trail, have sex in the parking lot, leave trash, and invade his privacy. Since the city put in the trail, he said it has become "overrun by degenerates, I loved where I live. Now not only do I hate it here, we are now no longer safe in our own home." Obviously, these sorts of allegations and incidents are highly upsetting and intolerable.

However, the public record shows a more nuanced situation, where Mr. Marro's complaints are balanced out by complaints of trail users against him.

Mr. Marro shared careful records of daily trail use from August this year, showing that 2 people a day using the trail on average. None caused trouble that resulted in police action or charges. That hardly qualifies as "overrun by degenerates."

From July 17 through Aug. 12 this year, he also recorded 53 visits to the parking lot, where people either stayed in their vehicles or used the lot to turn around. As someone who frequently uses Concord's trails, this does not strike me as unusual at all, or cause for alarm. I often see people taking a break, eating lunch, reading, or listening to music in their cars at trailheads.

I have visited the WEFT parking lot on Currier Road, Winant Trailhead on Fisk Road, and Swope Trailhead on Long Pond Road parking lots four times in the early morning since Sept. 9 and found negligible trash as Currier—and far more trash at Fisk and Swope (and much more along the roadsides between the trails).

In addition to comments to the Commission, public records from the Concord Police Department from 2024, 2025 and through 2026 show that trail users have reported concerns with Marros' dogs being loose, on the trail and acting aggressively. They also commented about guns frequently being fired on the Marros' gun range when trail users are nearby, which makes some trail users feel unsafe. In addition, the Bow Pioneers Snowmobile Club, a neighbor, and others complained that the trail and parking lot have been purposely blocked by snow and felled trees and limbs from the abutting property.

Of the 16* records released by the Concord Police from the last 3 years, 10 were made by Rene Marro, including complaints of loose dogs, a young couple smoking pot, someone "acting weird," people in a car doing drugs and leaving trash, and several people urinating or defecating. Over the same time, there were 7 reports made by trail users complaining of Marros' loose dogs on the trail, safety concerns with his firing range, and snow, felled trees or limbs blocking the trail. At your Sept. 9 meeting, more trail users shared complaints that they did not report to the police.

Following up on one complaint made by Mr. Marro, the Concord Police contacted the Manchester Police to track down an older woman who was caught urinating on the trail by one of Mr. Marro's cameras. The police tracked down her vehicle and identification. The Manchester police contacted her and lectured her about the law regarding urinating in public, for which she apologized profusely. Surely, the woman had no idea she was being videotaped—and urinating in the woods and out of public view is undoubtedly very common. This investigation does not strike me as the best use of police time in Concord and Manchester.

*The Concord PD withheld at least two records for privacy reasons and/or because an active investigation.

Winant Park Trailhead: A comparison

In 2024, 2025 and through 2026, Concord Police records show no complaints either against or by the abutters of the Winant Park Trailhead, at 18 Fisk Road, involving the trail or parking lot. This, despite a small side-trail leading directing from the parking lot to the abutters' home.

Although no studies are available to compare trail use numbers between the Fisk and Currier parking lots, I believe the Fisk trailhead receives more use. I also believe that trail use of the WEFT has declined in recent years due to issues with Mr. Marro's signage, dogs and shooting range, which were cited by several speakers at the Sept. 9 Conservation Commission meeting who now avoid the trail.

Shooting range invitation:

Although Mr. Marro could not attend the Sept. 9 Conservation Commission meeting, that evening he posted a public invitation to all 183 of his Facebook friends to come and shoot at his firing range (attached). This strikes me as antagonistic, and will only increase the concerns of trail users' public safety and the potential for conflict. The post was taken down four days later.

Several trail users have told me privately that they question the legality of Mr. Marro's gun range, and whether it meets the state's required buffer from public trails and recreation land. I do not have any legal background, but I would urge the Conservation Commission to investigate this situation and work with Mr. Marro to ensure the public's safety and keep the trail open.

It is my hope that the city, Mr. Marro and trail users can work out positive solutions to encourage responsible trail usage, maintenance and monitoring in ways that respects the Morros' peace and privacy, as well as the safety, recreation and trail access of all.

Respectfully,

Jim Graham
1 Terrace Road
Concord, NH

6:48

5:58

Posts Photos Reels

Rene's posts

Rene Marro
10h ·

Friends, I'm opening up my personal shooting range to you! If you'd like to come over and shoot, simply text me and I'll send you the address.

I have steel targets and a decent distance to shoot from, and I'd like to make it easier for friends to enjoy some range time without having to pay for a commercial range. This is just a friends-helping-friends opportunity, so feel free to reach out anytime.

Please text me first so I can confirm that it's a good time and go over the basic safety rules. Bring your own firearm, ammunition, eye and ear protection, and follow all applicable laws and safe shooting practices.

Jim Graham
SEP 10 AT 7:47 AM

Mr. Marro, the abutter trying to stop access to the public trail off Currier Road, posted this during last night's meeting.
THANKS to those who came to the he... See more

12 14