



City of Nashua
Conservation Commission
229 Main Street
Nashua NH 03061-2019

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NASHUA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 17, 2026

A. Call to order

A regular meeting of the Nashua Conservation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 7:00 PM, 229 Main Street, City Hall.

B. Roll call

Members present:

Sherry Dutzy, Chair
Dick Widhu, Vice Chair
Carol Sarno
Will Darby (@7:01pm)
Gloria McCarthy
Brandon Pierotti

Dale Carruth (Absent)
Amanda Griffith (Absent)
Megan Cook (Absent)

Also, in Attendance: Levent Akinci, Sustainability Planner

C. Approval of minutes

February 3, 2026

MOTION to approve minutes as amended by Commissioner Sarno.
Seconded by Commissioner Pierotti.

MOTION CARRIED

February 26, 2026 Site Walk.

MOTION to approve minutes as amended by Commissioner Sarno.
Seconded by Commissioner Widhu.

MOTION CARRIED

D. Old Business:

Clint Licqurish, 19 Vista Way. Proposal to remove 21 trees posing a threat to the applicant's home, within the wetland buffer for a wetland greater than 9000 square feet. Map D. Lot 23. Zone R-40 - Rural Residence. Ward 5.

Commissioner Dutzy led a discussion on the Conservation Commission previously working to ensure rules/regulations around the conservation subdivision were to be followed. A certificate of existence (beginning stewardship plan) was registered with the State of New Hampshire. The document states that forestry is prohibited without the approval from NH Fish and Game Department. The declarant identified portions of the property as critical wildlife habitat. A letter from wetlands scientist Brendan Quigley on May 21, 2019 to Scott McPhee, of the planning department outlined the following:

- The isolated wetland in the southwest corner of the property was determined to be a vernal pool.
- Implementation of an outreach program for homeowners on natural resources, obligations, and restrictions.
- Maintenance of lawn areas under an intergraded pest management and fertilization program.
- Installation of bat boxes
- Implementation of a mowing schedule for field areas late in the season.
- NH Fish and Game identified several species of concern in the vicinity.

Commissioner Dutzy stated that what they learned on the site visit was that the home owner's association was unaware of their responsibility for the conservation area. It was suggested a discussion on an educational program and the application for tree removal should take place.

Commissioner Dutzy opened the meeting up for discussion.

Clint Licqurish began by stating the reason he is here is because he was aware of the all of that information and is endeavoring to get the requisite approvals. And to say that the homeowner's association is not aware is not accurate. The

information was a part of a package that came with the governing documents. "Original" buyers received the stewardship plan.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT THE PACKET OF INFORMATION THE ORIGINAL HOMEOWNERS WHERE GIVEN.

Clint Licqurish followed up his discussion stating that since the original request to the Conservation Commission a tree has fallen, propped up by other trees. He expressed concern about the rest of the trees with the high winds and rain.

Mr. Andrew Mayo, president of Terrell Farm Condo Association provided his input and clarified the association is aware of their responsibilities. The offering statement included information about species to protect. The field is mowed after October 15th. Signs are up, and people know the three areas on the property. Declaration of covenants and restrictions incorporates the certificate of existence.

Commissioner Sarno: I appreciate your concerns about the trees, but we are both aware that those trees were there when you bought the home. And I'm wondering why you feel there a problem now. And they weren't when you bought the home.

Clint Licqurish: So, a couple of thoughts, when we signed the purchase and sales the foundation wasn't in place. And the lot hadn't been fully cleared. So, we weren't entirely aware where the property was going to sit. Relative to the definition of the wetlands buffer, that hadn't been clearly staked out at that time.

Commissioner Sarno: I've become aware that there's and ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification is the ISA-TRAQ. And I'm wondering if your arborist has that qualification?

Mr. Fredette, arborist: I am a member of the New Hampshire Arbor Association, which supersedes the ISA.

Commissioner Sarno clarified that ISA-TRAQ is a specific certification for identifying and assessing tree risk.

Mr. Fredette: I don't have anything to do with ISA.

**DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT THE ISA AND THE CERTIFICATION
RECOGNIZING THE RISK IN TREES PROVIDING A REPORT ABOUT THEM.**

It was determined that Mr. Fredette met with the homeowner and discussed the situation. He has been doing this for 45 years and knows the concerns of homeowners regarding tree jobs and resolutions and has never had anything to do with ISA.

**DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT THE NEED FOR APPROVAL FROM THE NEW
HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME.**

Commissioner Dutzy led s discussion that the conservation commission recognizes that trees fall on houses and can kill people. The definition of a tree that the homeowner wants taken down is one that is taller than the distance of the trunk of that tree and the base of the house. The commission questions the designation of dead trees for removal in a conservation area, as they have value. She also stated that she and the other commissioners have been on site visits where it has been both education for the commission and the arborist. This was not the case at this site walk. She stated there needs to be clarification about the New Hampshire Fish and Game and she would find it difficult to support 21 trees being taken down.

Mr. Licqurish responded by stating not every tree was selected purely on the basis of proximity to the house. The arborist identified 80-90% of the trees for removal as dead or dying, posing a threat to the home. He also suggested he may be in the wrong place and should be at the State level.

**DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT THE DEFINITION OF "FORESTRY". HOW THIS
CASE MAY SET A PRECEDENT OF REDUCING THE CONSERVATION AREA
PERCENTAGE IN CONSERVATION SUBDIVISIONS. AND THE POSSIBILITY OF
CUTTING SOME AND LEAVING THE TRUNKS OR TRIMMING BACK SOME
LESSONING THE SNOW LOAD AND THE WIND RESISTANCE.**

Mr. Licqurish added that the definition of trees for removal was based on the professional opinion of a licensed arborist. He is receptive to leaving removed tree material in place.

Levent Akinci: I did have a comment from Commissioner Carruth that I said I would make note to the group today he thinks that

the removal of trees should not be prohibited where there is a risk of personal injury or property damage.

Commissioner Dutzy lead a discussion about having a similar situation once before and not agreeing with the assessment that the arborist provided. It was suggested to get clarification form New Hampshire Fish and Game and their definition of forestry, and also suggested having the Conservation Commission pay for another arborist with risk assessment training evaluate the trees.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT CLARIFICATION ON THE TERMS OF "LICENSED ARBORIST."

Commissioner Dutzy went on to say that her suggestion is to contact a new company for tree assessment. Conduct a site walk with that tree risk easement individual to decide which trees need removal.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT BEING TOO FAR APART ON THE ARBORIST'S ASSESSMENT AND A SECOND OPINION IS THE REQUEST OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION. THE ZONING BOARD REQUEST WILL BE POSTPONED, AND THE GOAL IS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE AT THE APRIL 7TH CONSERVATION MEETING.

Commissioner Dutzy made a motion to hire a tree risk assessment licensed arborist for a site visit to determine which trees should be removed and why, at a cost not-to-exceed \$800.

Seconded by: Commissioner Widhu.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE ARBORIST AND CLARIFICATION ON TREE REMOVAL AND TRIMMING.

Commissioner Pierotti suggested a level 2 assessment using tools like a rubber mallet probe or a D tape.

MOTION AMENDED TO INCLUDE A MINIMUM LEVEL 2 ASSESSMENT.

Commissioner Darby clarified that the conservation commission is an advisory group, and the Zoning Board makes the final decision. Mr. Licorices does not have to agree with it. But the board is asking for a second opinion.

MOTION CARRIES

E. New Business:

Edward and Hannah Perciballi, 36 Roy Street. Proposal to remove existing 8 x 12 deck and replace it with an 8 x 12 enclosed mudroom, with temporary impact to the wetland buffer for a prime wetland. Map 87. Lot 107-17. Zone R-A - Urban Residence. Ward 6.

Edward and Hannah Perciballi introduced themselves to the group and Edward led a discussion on their request. They plan to build a mudroom beside their existing home, replacing an existing deck. The mudroom will have the same dimensions as the porch attached to their home.

Commissioner Dutzy: I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to review your application, I wasn't aware we were going to have another applicant. So, the entire property falls within the wetland buffer.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT THE LOCATION OF THE HOME AND THE 75FT WETLAND BUFFER FROM SALMON BROOK BEING WELL INTO THE LOCATION OF THE HOME.

Edward Perciballi explained the intent is to enclose an existing porch into a mudroom.

Levent Akinci: And if I may add, the reason that this was brought to Conservation Commission is because when it was brought to the Building Department, with the whole property being in the buffer, they wanted to make sure that even though construction is happening within an existing foot print, that there were no concerns from the Conservation Commission and that Conservation Commission was aware of it.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT HOW THIS WILL BE BUILT ON A PILLAR FOUNDATION, NOT A SLAB FOUNDATION. AS WELL AS WHAT THE BACKYARD LOOKS LIKE.

Commissioner Dutzy: Can you tell us a little bit on how you maintain the backyard?

Edward Perciballi: Fertilize it multiple times a year, I mow it, just your typical maintenance.

Commissioner Dutzy: Can we get you to not fertilize it?

Edward Perciballi: If that's an issue, yeah sure.

DISCUSSION ENSUED HOW FAR BACK THE YARD GOES AND THE USE OF NO PHOSPHATE OR LOW PHOSPHATE FERTILIZER. PEST MANAGEMENT AND MARKING THE PROPERTY AS WETLAND WITH 2 PLAQUES.

Commissioner Dutzy made a favorable recommendation for the construction of the mudroom with (1) stipulation, the homeowners must mark out the wetland buffer boundaries on the property with the appropriate markings, per the Conservation website.

Seconded by commissioner Darby

MOTION WAS AMENDED WITH THE SECOND STIPULATION THE OPEN FOUNDATION MUST REMAIN.

MOTION CARRIES

Bentley Family Trust (Charles H. & Gabrielle H. Bentley), 55A Middle Dunstable Road. Proposal to subdivide existing lot into two residential lots (1614, 1614A), and construct a new dwelling unit on lot 1614A, with temporary impacts to approximately 2,2025± SF of wetland buffer and the removal of one tree within the wetland buffer. Map B. Lot 1614. Zone R-18 - Suburban Residence. Ward 9

Alex Giuffrida, a civil engineer with IMEG introduced himself, he represents Marathon Building Development LLC. They want to subdivide this existing lot, one into two. The project will disturb approximately 2,025 square feet of wetland buffer. The goal is to get the commissions positive recommendation to the ZBA and schedule a site walk if necessary. The existing site is map B, lot 1614 with a single-family on Middle Dunstable Road. It's under one acre and abutters are single-family and multi-family residential. It is serviced by public sewer and water. The proposed is a one into two subdivision with a single-family dwelling and a new curb cut on Middle Dunstable Road. There's a proposed 8-inch public sewer easement that runs north of the site to Ridge Road. Site grading and retaining wall are planned to minimize disturbance within the buffer. The storm water management goal is to capture the impervious area and swale it out back to the pond to retain it and reduce flows off-site. The buffer impact is around 2,000 square feet, with a 22-foot encroachment. One tree, an older crab apple tree within the wetland buffer is proposed for removal.

Commissioner Dutzy asked if the property is level what is the purpose of the retaining wall?

Alex Giuffrida explained that a 4-foot high retaining wall is proposed to minimize the impact within the buffer. It will be about 5 to 10 feet within the buffer. The retaining wall is on the side of the driveway to minimize grading within the buffer.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT PLANTINGS OR SOIL RETENTION VEGETATION BEING USED INSTEAD OF A RETAINING WALL. AS WELL AS THE CITIES BUILDING SETBACK REQUIREMENTS.

Alex Giuffrida explained that the plan shown does not reflect their new intentions to include a swale on the right side of the building for water to sheet flow into the pond, avoiding the wetland buffer. An existing pipe drains west into what is believed to be Poliquin Dr. The existing drainage swale will not go into the new pond, which is only for impervious roof runoff.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT THE AREA UP TO THE RETAINING WALL BEING GRASSED WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF PLANTING ON THAT SIDE OF THE WALL IF PREFERRED.

A site walk is scheduled for March 31st at 5:30pm

F. NCC Correspondence and Communications

UPDATE ON 16 GLENWOOD DRIVE

- The project at 16 Glenwood Drive was approved by the Planning Board and Zoning And it awaits a building permit.
- Stipulations where put into place.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FORESTS:

- The annual communication was sent. No action needed.

G. Commissioners Discussion

GREELEY PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

- A liaison is needed to attend.
- Commissioner Darby volunteered to attend.
- An email will be sent to see if any of the commissioners that are not present would like to volunteer first.

NEMBA SNOW GROOMING FOR TRAILS:

- Concerns were raised about the grooming of the NEMBA trails, Specifically regarding signage and unauthorized trail usage.
- A sign that says, "This is not an authorized ride around bypass. Do not reopen or modify the trail" was ignored.
- The parks department did not give NEMBA permission to do snow dogging within the park.

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE GUIDED WALK:

- The city nature challenge will take place from April 24th to April 27th.
- The conservation commission is asked to host a walk on one of the conservation properties.
- Commissioner Sarno will coordinate with Levent to organize a walk, potentially on Sunday April 26th.

SUSTAINABILITY FAIR:

- The sustainability fair is scheduled for April 25th
- The conservation commission will sign up for a table.
- Amanda and Megan Cook are doing a handout.
- The commission needs to bring their own table. Commissioner Dutzy will bring a card table.

GREEN SANCTUARY TEAM:

- A table for the Green Sanctuary Team.
- They provide low to no-cost window inserts to lower fuel costs, keep homes warmer, and reduce carbon dioxide.
- The Unitarian Universal Church is doing a build in November and needs volunteers.

STREET TREES:

- The goal is to create landscaping modules with tree suggestions for different urban landscapes (small, larger, moist, dry, shady, sunny).
- Eversource and other utilities might have lists of trees under 30 feet that don't conflict with power lines.
- The group voted to focus on the tree streets, which are small properties.

ROADSIDE CLEANUP:

- Bishop Guertin is sending faculty and staff to clean up roadside near Lovewell Pond on Friday March 20th from 9-11
- The city is asked to pick up the bags from the parking lot at Lovewell Park in the afternoon. Levent Akinici will look into this.

SALAMANDER CROSSING BRIGADE:

- Nashua resident, Jesse McCarthy contacted the commission about brigade to help salamanders and other amphibians' cross roads during their spring migration on warm rainy nights.
- Jesse and Commissioner Sarno went to Groton Rd and saw a lot of dead salamanders, but rescued a few.
- The Harris Center organizes crossing brigade in western New Hampshire.
- The Harris Center might be able to help organize an event, contact is, Brett Thelen.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT AN UPCOMING APPLICATION FOR 26 VERONA STREET. AN EARLIER SITE WALK BEFORE APRIL 7TH WAS DECLINED.

Commissioner Dutzy made a motion to hire a licensed arborist with risk assessment credentials for a level two assessment, not to exceed \$800.00.

Seconded by Commissioner Darby.

MOTION CARRIES

H. Committee Reports

NONE

I. Public Comment Related to Items on the Agenda -

NONE

J. Nonpublic Session per. RSA 91-A: 3 II (d) lands (Roll call vote required).

NONE

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Commissioner Sarno at 9:09 PM

SECONDED by Commissioner Pierotti

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting notes taken by Nichole Wilkins