



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

Planning & Zoning 589-3090
Fax 589-3119
Web www.nashuanh.gov

NASHUA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

October 6, 2026

A. Call to order

A regular meeting of the Nashua Conservation Commission was called to order on Wednesday, October 6, 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 (7:02pm)
Gloria McCarthy
Brandon Pierotti

Amanda Griffith (Absent)
Dale Carruth (Absent)

Also, in Attendance: Levent Akinci, Sustainability Planner.

C. Approval of minutes

September 2, 2026

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

MOTION CARRIED

D. Old Business:

Eric Newman, 5 Roby Street. Proposal to redevelop two parcels into a subdivision for 13 single family homes and one multifamily building with temporary impact to approximately 1,300 SF of the wetland buffer for a prime wetland. Map 126. Lot 23. Zone R-A - Urban Residence. Ward 6.

Mark West, wetland scientist, led a discussion on a revised restoration and planting plan. The revised plan expands the planting area from the original 500 sq. ft (50x10) to 960 sq. ft (12x80) doubling the area. The width was adjusted to 12 feet wide

based on the commission's request. Trees include: two native red maples to replace mature trees and mitigate impacts. Native shrubs planted 8-foot on center spacing (plus extra plants).

- Clethra alnifolia (sweet pepperbush): spreads via rhizomes, serves as a strong pollinator.
- Silky dogwood: produces food and flowers
- Winterberry: food producer
- Highbush blueberry

Erosion control: Seed mix sourced from New England Wetland Plants to stabilize the buffer area and slopes. Along with straw mulching on all disturbed soil. Buffer area is not expanding further toward the wetland buffer edge; it is extended back towards the existing garage/home footprint. The one existing tree in the project area will have its tree well extended.

- A full assessment from Lee Gilman has not yet occurred as he was unavailable to visit before the meeting.

Fill and Grading Details: The area to be raised is limited to approximately 45 to 55 sq. ft, raised about 2.5 to 3 feet in height. Total additional fill required will be approximately 10 to 15 yards to finish the yard level without extending the slope beyond its current limits. Wood chips will serve as ground cover on top of tarps.

Invasive Species Management: Japanese knotweed, abandoned initial plan of deep burial due to concerns that it requires up to 16 feet of burial depth to stop resurgence. Replaced with the tarp smothering method and waterway-safe herbicide (Ranger Pro) on slopes where tarps are not feasible (e.g., above the asbestos disposal area).

Commissioner Sarno recommended cutting burning bush to stumps and covering them with "buckthorn baggies" (or heavy-duty contractor bags fastened with zip ties acting like a mini tarp/umbrella) for 1-2 years to prevent stump sprouting without chemicals.

Commissioner Dutzy made a motion for a favorable recommendation with the following stipulations:

- Wetland Buffer placards placed every 50 feet along the wetland buffer boundary (e.g., on 4x4 posts, rocks, or tree), mounted using the guidance from Planning department.
- Full execution of the landscape plan presented by Mark West, with a completion deadline set for December 2027.

- Ground cover must be wood chips over tarps as specified.

Seconded by Commissioner Sarno

MOTION CARRIES

E. New Business:

NONE

F. NCC Correspondence and Communications

BUCKMEADOW MAINTENANCE AND INVASIVE CONTRACTOR:

Commissioner Sarno spoke about the brush hogging maintenance quote received by Miguel. Miguel came in at \$2,100 to brush hog half the meadow this year, and \$2,100 for the other half next year. Miguel will have to rent specialized equipment for this task.

Commissioner Dutzy advised she was provided information that Knotts Land Care preforms brush hogging and would provide a quote as well.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ON QUOTES AND FINANCES AND GETTING A SECOND QUOTE

Commissioner Sarno made a motion to not exceed \$2,500 and the project completed by the end of October.

Seconded by: Commissioner Darby

MOTION CARRIES

DISCUSSION ENSUED REGARDING NON-DISCLOSURE OF THE APPROVED CEILING (\$2,500) UNTIL THE VENDER QUOTE IS RECEIVED. STAFF NOTED DRAFT MINUTES MUST BE POSTED WITHIN 5 DAYS.

Commissioner Darby requested an update on available balances and interest accruals in the Conservation account.

Levent Akinci agreed to coordinate with Deb Chisholm to provide updated balances.

G. Commissioners Discussion

POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF PARCEL H635:

Commissioner Widhu was contacted via email by The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests inquiring about the potential to purchase parcel H635. The forest society originally bought the parcel with the intention of selling it to Pennichuck Water Works. The parcel sits within the 150-foot watershed protection zone and is contiguous with city-owned/Pennichuck owned conservation land. A woods logging road runs through it, but it is split by wetlands and largely undevelopable. The Forest Society had previously proposed selective logging on the parcel, but abandoned the effort when the commission requested an official forest management plan.

It was determined that Levent Akinci will reach out to the Forest Society to clarify their expectations regarding price or potential donation.

111 MAIN DUNSTABLE ROAD:

Discussion stemmed from an ongoing violation where an estimated 98 trees were unlawfully clear-cut within the wetland buffer to expand a lawn. Trees and stumps were ground down and removed, making direct diameter-at-breast-height (DBH) field measurements impossible. Tree counts were derived from historic aerial imagery. Brandon Quigley's report identified several white pines and other species, though multiple trees were classified as "unknown". Estimated that the total lost DBH could exceed 1,000 inches.

Commissioner Sarno presented the Standardized Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers (CTLA) formula used to calculate replacement value for mature trees. Variables include DBH, cost of the largest commercially available replacement tree (typically 3-4-inch caliper) species rating, location on the property, and pre-removal tree condition. Current city ordinance (NRO 190-117) provides for equivalent DBH replacement (either by equal caliper or multiple smaller trees adding up to the total removed DBH) and carries per-day fines for non-compliance.

Commissioner Sarno to distribute the CTLA valuation formula link to the commission. Levent Akinci to resend Brendan Quigley's tree survey report and check existing legal provisions with City legal. Commission to evaluate consulting UNH Extension Forester Mike Gagnon for an uncompensated site review.

VOLUNTEER PROJECT AND COMMUNITY CLEANUPS:

Commissioners discussed, Bishop Guertin Day of Service scheduled for November 5th at 9:30am.

Commissioner Sarno proposed location focus on clearing bittersweet vines near the boardwalk end at Buckmeadow (following up on earlier teacher volunteer work), or alternative trail work along the river bike trail. Final site to be confirmed at the November 4th meeting.

Commissioner Dutzy discussed Joyce Park and the discover of illegal dumping of construction and demolition debris (including windows) down the embankment behind 131 Burke Street (parking lot of a contracting business). A conversation was had at this visit with (2) First Student bus drivers whom have observed unauthorized vehicles dumping trash after dark. There is also a similar dumping situation over at the Nashua River Boat ramp. It has been referred to City Code Enforcement.

19 VISTA WAY ZBA APPROVAL:

Commissioner Dutzy lead a discussion on attending the ZBA meeting for 19 Vista Way and the request that was approved by the ZBA to remove 21 trees within the conservation buffer. Commissioner Dutzy has expressed her extreme dismay and has written a draft letter to Community Planning for them to review to express her concerns to the ZBA. She finds that it is so egregious that if there is no change made to the decision she will resign from the Conservation Commission. Commissioner Dutzy had suggested topping the trees at 15 feet to remove structural fall risk while preserving habitat trunks, rather than full removal. The ZBA condition stipulates that felled tree trunks/logs and debris must remain on-site in the woods. Cutting window allowed between November 1st and April 30th. Commissioner Dutzy expressed city legal president (State Supreme Court ruling regarding a case with the Hooksett Conservation Commission in 2007) bars Conservation Commissions from appealing ZBA decisions because Conservations serve purely as advisory boards. Levent Akinci to review the HOA approval letter language with the City legal department to determine if the lake of dual approval invalidates the HOA sign-off or permits an appeal.

ROBY PARK:

Staff continues to follow up with DPW to obtain the updated layout and mapping plan required for Mark Jacob to perform the baseline environmental assessment.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT A DISC GOLF BASKET NEAR THE STREET, AND USING GOATS AS BRUSH CLEANUP.

GREELEY PARK ADVISORY BOARD:

Commissioner Darby reported scheduling barriers attending meetings at DPW (848 West Hollis St) due to 5:00pm gate lockouts. Commissioner Widhu agreed to replace commissioner Darby as the Conservation representative on the Greeley Park Advisory Board. Mr. Akinci will formally notify the City Clerk's office.

H. Committee Reports

COMMISSION WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA:

Commissioner Dutzy discussed the website (built on Squarespace) has outdated information. Mr. Akinci will provide administrative login access to Commissioner Darby, who agreed to update the events page and direct visitors to the Facebook page.

Levent Akinci discussed advertising volunteer vacancies for Conservation Commission in the upcoming Sustainability/Environment and Energy Committee Newsletter.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ON CONCERNS REGARDING DISCREPANCIES ON NEW CITY GIS ZONING MAP AND CONSERVATION LAND CLASSIFICATION AND THE MERRITT PARKWAY PROJECT.

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

NCC

September 2, 2026

Page 7

MOTION to adjourn by Commissioner Widhu at 8:35 PM

SECONDED by Commissioner Sarno

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting notes taken by Nichole Wilkins