

Sharon Conservation Commission

February 25, 2025

Minutes

On Tuesday February 25, 2025, a regular meeting of the Sharon Conservation Commission was held at the Sharon Meeting House on Route 123 in Sharon, New Hampshire at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Anne Fischer, Anne Booth, and Megan Cahill, and Beth Fernald.

Minutes

January minutes were approved

Financial

Conservation Fund

Interest	\$	125.34	
Withdrawal	\$	230.82	(Paul Docher Payment)
Balance	\$	139,411.73	

Town Forest Fund

Interest	\$	76.54
Balance	\$	85,162.67

Conservation Easements

Discussed the San-Ken property on Swamp Road_ (Map 7 Lot-21 – 92 acres) and Anne and Anne will bring this to the attention of the Planning Board. Anne F. brought up new ways to discuss purchase. Anne F. will discuss with Anne McBride.

Anne Booth was going to get a map of protected parts of town forest to Anne McBride prior to Anne M. answering easement questions.

Moose Plate Grant:

Anne F. will attend webinar (or listen to recording). In order to apply for grant for easement, we will need to know the scope of the project and projected cost. The application comes out June 1, 2025 and is due sometime in Sept. 2025 (date not set yet).

The Conservation Grant Program's six focus areas include:

- Water Quality and Quantity: Restore, enhance, maintain or protect.
- Wildlife Habitat: Create, restore, enhance, manage or protect.
- Soil Conservation and Flooding: Reduce or prevent erosion or improve soils.
- Best Management Practices: Plan and implement for agriculture, storm or forestry.
- Conservation Planning: Accomplish a conservation project or outcome that includes a public involvement component.

- Land Conservation: Permanent land protection through conservation easement or fee acquisition and/or associated transaction and stewardship costs.

Reclassifying Class VI roads

This RSA came up in an email from NHACC. Many towns have changed road designations, essentially changing a Class VI to a “trail” designation.

231-A:2 Reclassification of Highways; Damages. –

I. Any class V or VI highway may be reclassified as a class A or class B trail, and any class A trail may be reclassified as a class B trail, by vote of the local legislative body.

II. In accordance with RSA 231:43, no highway of any class which provides the sole access to any land shall be reclassified as a class B trail without the written consent of the owner of that land.

III. Whenever a reclassification is made under this section, any aggrieved landowner may appeal, or may petition for the assessment of damages, in the same manner as in the discontinuance of highways pursuant to RSA 231:48 and 231:49, and the amount of damages, if any, shall reflect the landowner use provisions set forth in RSA 231-A:1.

Source. 1993, 60:2, eff. Jan. 1, 1994.

RSA 36-A Optional powers

This bill was mentioned briefly, but because it is too late to get on town warrant for 2025, we tabled the discussion.

Summary: In the spring of 2008, The New Hampshire Legislature passed a bill (SB 381) that authorizes towns to contribute conservation funds to projects sponsored by private conservation groups (such as land trusts) without having to hold a legal interest in property. The law resolves a grey area in the interpretation of the RSA that had long divided municipal attorneys. (We think that this bill was presented to selectboard when we helped purchase the Temple Mtn. property, but it was never put on warrant. Would need more info on whether this is true, and if so, why it was never on warrant. And should we revisit.)

Town Forest

Waiting to hear from Moosewood on inventory completion, presentation, etc.

Swearing in

Anne F. reminded members that they must be sworn in. Anne Booth and Megan need to be sworn in. Belinda’s and Beth’s terms run through this year.

**Next regular meeting will be held at the Sharon Meeting House
Route 123 Sharon, New Hampshire at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday March 25, 2025.**