

Grantham Conservation Commission

MINUTES

JUNE 2, 2025

300 ROUTE 10 SOUTH, GRANTHAM, NH

MEETING CALLED BY	David Wood
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Meeting of the Conservation Commission
FACILITATOR	Chairman David Wood
NOTE TAKER	David Wood
COMMISSION MEMBERS	Susan Buchanan, Rich Kaszeta, Dennis Ryan
ALTERNATE MEMBERS	Colin Davis (remote), Christine Henderson (remote), Kathy Houghton, and Jeff Walla
ABSENT	Member Martha Gearhart
SELECTBOARD REP	Peter Garland
OTHER VISITORS	Emily Owens (clerk)
ATTENDEES ONLINE	None

Wood called the Grantham Conservation Commission (GCC) to order on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was held in the Whitney Room of Grantham Town Hall located at 300 Route 10 South in Grantham, NH. Wood appointed Alternate Kathy Houghton to serve as a voting commission member in place of Gearhart.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTE

DISCUSSION

Wood asked if there were any additions, corrections, or modifications to the draft of the minutes of the meeting of May 5, 2025. Following several revisions, Wood asked if there were any additional corrections, hearing none, Buchanan moved to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Ryan. The motion was **approved unanimously**.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Submit approved minutes for posting	Wood	ASAP

OLD BUSINESS – SHERWOOD FOREST

DISCUSSION

Wood and Kaszeta reported on their effort on May 25 to identify a route for a trail connecting the recently harvested portion of Sherwood Forest to the Brook Trail in the Town Forest. They concluded that, while very little effort will be needed to make the connector passable, two bridges need to be installed: one across the brook feeding Miller Pond and the other across Skinner Brook.

ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Identify materials needed for bridging	Wood	ASAP
Schedule date for bridge construction	Wood	July

OLD BUSINESS – FISHER LOT

DISCUSSION

Walla reported that the chestnut trees that Dick Hocker had offered for planting in the Fisher Lot have died. Walla will see if they will root sprout.

Kaszeta plans to replace several of the insulating posts supporting the electric fence and mow a path across the Fisher meadow.

Ryan recommended rerouting the trail to the cellar hole so that it does not pass through the blackberries.

ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Repair electric fence & mow	Kaszeta	ASAP
Plan trail reroute	Wood	July

OLD BUSINESS – SHORELAND CUTTING APPLICATIONS

DISCUSSION		
Three cutting applications were received and approved.		
ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

OLD BUSINESS – LIDAR MAPPING

DISCUSSION		
Kaszeta presented the overlaps he has created of property boundaries with Lidar maps. Using three points with known coordinates, he can size historic maps, such as the 1892 Northeast Grantham map, to overlay the above maps and assign the ownership shown on the historic maps with the physical features revealed by the Lidar. He plans to take photographs of the features themselves and embed them into the maps.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Determine interesting features in the Barton property	Kaszeta	ASAP
Add photos to the maps	Kaszeta	ongoing

OLD BUSINESS – TRAIL MONITORING

DISCUSSION		
In addition to the connector trail above and items in the Fisher Lot, Henderson reported a downed tree near Four Corners and a leaner near Lily Pond.		
ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Plan clearing of debris on the trails in Sherwood Forest	Wood / Henderson	Summer
Plan removal of dead trees in Brookside Park	Wood /Davis	Summer
Reroute trail in Fisher lot & clear cemetery	Wood	July
Install bridges on TF/SF connector	Wood	July
Remove trees at 4-Corners and Lily Pond	Wood	July

OLD BUSINESS – BROOKSIDE

DISCUSSION		
With the help of Dennis Ryan and Amelia Lantz, two “no dig” pollinator gardens were planted at Brookside Park and additional plants are to be added this summer. Additional mulch is needed on the two plots.		
ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Deliver mulch	Davis	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – COVERT TRAINING

DISCUSSION		
Houghton recently completed a 3-day course given by UNH Cooperative Extension entitled Covert. During the training, foresters from all over NH explained the best practices to enhance woodlots to meet the goals of the owner such as earning money, creating woodcock habitat, enhancing species diversity, etc.		
ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
None		

NEW BUSINESS – ORCHID PROJECT

DISCUSSION		
In Gearhart's absence, it was reported that showy Lady Slippers have been placed in two private gardens. The efforts to involve the Grantham Village School will require further refinement of the observations required of the students and will not be implemented this year.		
ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Refine the project for elementary students	Gearhart / Owens	Next year

NEW BUSINESS – REIMBURSEMENT

DISCUSSION		
Kaszeta made a motion to reimburse Walla \$100 and Wood \$50 for seeds purchased from The American Chestnut Foundation, seconded by Buchanan. The motion was unanimously approved		

ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Submit receipts	Wood / Walla	ASAP

NEW BUSINESS – OLD HOME DAY

DISCUSSION		
Walla agreed to present the Commission's work with The American Chestnut Foundation including displaying the seedlings. Gearhart will be asked to present on iNaturalist.		
ACTION ITEM	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Inform Rec Director of GCC participation in Old Home Day	Wood	Done
Participate in Old Home Day	Walla / Gearhart	June 28

ADJOURNMENT

Wood asked if there was any further business. There being no additional business, Kaszeta made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Wood. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Monday, July 7, 2025** in the Whitney Room of the Grantham Town Hall at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Wood
Chair