Town of Swanzey, New Hampshire
Conservation Commission Meeting
Whitcomb Hall, Main Street, Swanzey, NH
Meeting Minutes—October 5, 2026

Note: Minutes are subject to review, correction, and approval by the Commission. Review, correction, and approval of minutes generally occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Swanzey Conservation Commission was called to order by Chair Cheri Domina at 4:01 p.m. Committee members present: Chair Cheri Domina, Jay Ward, Bob Goodrich, Mark Scalera, Bonnie Hart, Nancy Karlson. Alternate Jane Johnson was seated for Bud Windsor. Others present: Asst. Town Planner Stephon Mehu

Absent: Bud Windsor

MINUTES

The commission members considered the meeting minutes for September 8, 2025. **Scalera makes a motion to accept minutes. Goodrich seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS

Public Input—Domina notified Chris Levy that Route 10 Auto had improperly stored tires. Domina also discussed possible breeding of black vultures in Swanzey—a new species in the area.

Review for Planning Board / ZBA / Town

Neighbors Gas Station, 472 Old Homestead Hwy for Variance to have a mobile home on the lot—Members agreed that there are no conservation concerns.

Finance Report—Discussed the Balance Report Domina received from the Town. One expense for Mt. Cresson needs to be changed to the Cresson account; Domina will follow up. Ward will ask town for clarification on how accounts are managed.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Conservation Comm Potluck, **Oct. 7**—Domina asked if anyone else wants to register; she'll attend.

NHACC Conference Nov. 7, Pembroke—Slots for attendees are still available.

Open Space Plan Update— Update received Sunday, October 3. Members will take the next few weeks to review the documents and provide commentary. Domina will send our comments on the May revision, so we can review with them in mind. Mehu was reviewing our 2018 NRI—asked if we'll be discussing resident's proximity to outdoor rec opportunities as a priority. Members agreed that its importance should be a question for the public meeting.

Honey Hill & Mt. Cresson Monitoring—Ward and Domina agreed to email the group when they have a date for walking the properties.

Mt. Cresson Trails—The subcommittee plans to meet in September or October.

Wilson Pond—Pond Assoc. now has a board of 7, Scalera said. He presented three options (from Water & Wetlands) for treating the pond for the aquatic overgrowth of bladderwort, milfoil and tape grass. Most

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expensive & long-lasting option would eliminate all aquatic plants for 2-5 years. Company claims the treatments are safe for recreation. Domina questions how the treatment would affect the overall ecological health of the pond, such as amphibians, insects and fish, and downstream life. Treatments would take place in June when frogs are breeding. What about dead vegetation and dissolved oxygen afterward? Ward agrees and would like the Conservation Commission to further investigate. He will contact the invasive species specialist at the DES. Scalera informs that any treatment of the pond would have to go through DES permitting. Don't know what's causing the overgrowth—would like to know more. Is it climate change, natural fluctuations, excess nutrients? Can we tackle the root cause?
Scalera said there is also a 30% increase in Chlorides in the pond recently. It seems to be a widespread problem. State road uses salt, but people also salt driveways and walkways around the pond.

Next Meeting—November 2

ADJOURNMENT
Johnson makes a motion to adjourn. Karlson seconded. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed. 5:06pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Bonnie Hart & Cheri Domina, Chair

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