

TOWN OF LEVERETT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S MEETING MINUTES
July 06, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Leverett Town Hall

Present: Joan Deely, Seth Heminway, Bill Corwin, Pete Sylvan, Sarah Manteiga

Absent: David Powicki

Attendees: Samuel Black, Abby Lamborn

1) **Open Meeting:** Acting Chair Deely called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

2) **Public Inquiries:**

- SH brought up that a men's group would be repairing a bridge in the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust that had been damaged by ice. The Commission discussed the potential need for them to file with the Commission. SH stated he would follow up with the group.

3) **Welcome to Abby Lamborn, Conservation Agent:**

New Conservation Agent, Abby Lamborn, introduced herself, stating that her office hours would likely be on Wednesday mornings.

4) **Board Discussion**

a. **Update on beaver dam breach, 42 Shutesbury Road:**

PS provided an update that no water had been flowing as of several days ago. SH reported that the beavers had raised it again. PS spoke to the lawyers that represented the Trust. The Commission requested that policies and laws regarding beaver dams be included in the next issue of the newsletter. They also discussed letting both the person who breached the dam and the new owners know what to do in the future.

b. **FONLS – update from CC site visit, next steps:**

The applicant, Samuel Black, provided an update regarding the project, noting that the stabilization process, including grassing in, was not yet complete because that area would be torn up for a different project with a separate Notice of Intent (NOI). SH ensured that stabilization was a requirement of the NOI, and the Commission said they would sign off on the project.

The applicant brought up their attempts to control invasive species and SH suggested planting large deciduous trees that would shade them out. The applicant and Commission also discussed the applicant's pollinator garden.

c. **Library project update:**

The Commission discussed the use of pressure treated lumber for the Library bridge that was approved reluctantly because they will be placed on steel and alternatives were prohibitively expensive.

d. **P Brown – update on communications:**

JD sent a letter to P Brown. They responded and let the Commission know that they would not be able to attend the meeting but would like to remedy the situation. The Commission will arrange a site visit.

e. **Ivy Mabijs – tree down, end of Putney Road:**

The Commission stated that they did not have more information. PS added that trees downed on private property are generally the owner's responsibility to move, barring several exceptions. JD said she would follow up on next steps.

f. **Hicks/Botta conservation land update:**

SH stated that there is no update yet.

g. **Administrative matters:**

- The Commission received a bill from MACC that needs to be paid.
- Melnik Law Offices sent correspondence regarding utility work on a project easement. SH proved an update that they had to adjust the location of the easement on the deeds.

- The Commission received Franklin Land Trust public information.
- The Commission received a bill from the office of Donna MacNicol to be paid.

h. Approval of minutes 6/1/2026, 5/4/2026:

JD noted that her name was spelled wrong in the 5/4/2026 minutes. BC asked if Maureen Ippolito had been speaking on behalf of Eric Masters and John Van Steenberg and it was decided to change the language so that was not the case.

SH moved the Commission to approve the minutes from May 4, 2026. Seconded by JD. Motion passes 4-0-1. SM abstained due to being absent at the May 4, 2026 meeting.

i. Sign FONLS OOC:

j. Open Orders of Conditions

- **200-0207 Dudleyville Road Drainage Improvement Project Updates:**

The Commission is waiting on an update on the Notice of Intent from Town Administrator McGinnis.

5) Meeting wrap-up:

- **Known agenda items for August meeting:**

- P Brown
- Elm Footbridge
- Friends of Leverett Pond
- Warner Corner Access Road
- The Commission briefly discussed funding for beaver sites

- **August meeting date:** August 3, 2026.

6) Adjournment: SH moved the Commission to adjourn. Seconded by PS. Motion passes 5-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.