

## **Leverett Conservation Commission Minutes: January 5, 2026**

Start time: 7:05 PM

Board members present: Joan Deely (Acting Chair); Seth Heminway, Sarah Manteiga (Voting Members)

Attendance: Bella Yeager (Conservation Agent); Sam Black (FONLS), Marc Levasseur (Foresight Land Services; FONLS), Macaylla Silver, Mikki Telega

1. **PUBLIC INQUIRIES:** None
2. **REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE: 200-0205, Friends of North Leverett Sawmill**

The Commission discussed whether it feels confident in the work performed based on earlier site visits, and the recent updates about the bridge anchors installed in the winter of 2025. The Commission expresses confidence in the work and in moving forward to issue the Certificate of Compliance.

Seth moves to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 200-0205. Joan seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

3. **REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE: 119 Long Plain Rd**

Orders of Conditions 200-111 and 200-131 were opened by the landowner before Mikki Telega and never closed out, but work was never begun for either. Telega has sold her property but the open Orders of Conditions need to be closed out as a condition of the sale.

Joan makes a motion to sign both Certificates of Compliance, noting on each that work was not begun for either. Seth seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

4. **PUBLIC HEARING - NOTICE OF INTENT 200-0208: Friends of North Leverett Sawmill**

Marc Levasseur presents the Notice of Intent to further improve and develop the North Leverett Sawmill site for public use. This will involve building renovations with a subsurface sewage absorption system, well, parking, ADA access and related site work. DEP had issued a list of questions about the project, which

Bella and the Commission address one by one with Marc, who has prepared answers in advance. Questions remain about the proper fee category, as the fee paid was calculated using Category 1 criteria, which are for a single family house. Bella believes the project to fit into Category 3, and will confirm with Mark Stinson. There are also remaining questions about whether the project can be categorized as Restoration work, as mitigation credits language and calculations were used in the Notice of Intent, and whether the project requires a Stormwater Report. Marc does not believe a SW report is needed since the project is not creating a new point source pollution discharge. Bella will look into this further as well.

Joan moves to leave the hearing open for the February meeting, to resolve these questions. Sarah seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

## **5. NEW & OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Friends of Leverett Pond 2025 Whole-Pond Aquatic Weed Survey Results (NOI # 200-0196)
  - i. Mitch Mulholland has submitted the results of the annual Whole-Pond Aquatic Weed Survey, which is a requirement of the OOC; the survey documents invasive and native species abundance, overall species richness (this being a long-term goal of the project), and recommendations. The survey was performed by kayak in June, 2025. The report seems to show results similar to the 2023 survey, and that while there has been a slight decrease in the invasive curly-leaf pondweed and swollen bladderwort, the latter remains one of the top three dominant macrophytes in the pond overall. There has been an increase in variable watermilfoil. The survey notes that Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) go through “boom and bust” years, and that fluctuations in abundance and presence are normal; not immediately indicative of major changes in the overall abundance of any given species. Meanwhile the greatest species richness documented in 2025 corresponds to areas that have been managed by the eco-harvester or hydrorake in the past, along with the North and South ends of the pond, especially the shallowest areas. Recommended actions for the next phases of the project include continued spot-treatments of ProcellaCOR for larger patches of invasive variable milfoil, taking care to avoid native milfoil and other species susceptible to ProcellaCOR (coontail) and possibly timing the application with a dry period of the summer and dam manipulation. Multiple years of

spot treatment, hydroraking, and hand-harvesting are recommended to continue to manage invasives, with more granular recommendations for each species corresponding to each individual method.

- ii. Friends of Leverett Pond's full plan for 2026 is expected to be delivered to the ConCom in February, per the terms of the OOC.
  - iii. Macaylla Silver comes forward and expresses concerns about the survey methodology presented in the annual report, as well as with the long-term effects of herbicides on overall species richness in Leverett Pond.
- b. Dudleyville Road Improvement Project updates
    - i. Work has stopped due to weather conditions, and will resume when possible, with updates from Tighe & Bond as things progress.
  - c. Updates to Hicks/Botta land donation
    - i. Will funding need to be allocated for this project at Town Meeting, under Article 97? Bella will discuss with Margie.

## **6. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

- a. Approval of 12/1/25 minutes - deferred to next meeting
- b. Funding of legal expenses related to the Evans-Marlowe right-of-way dispute
  - i. Seth moves to look into using the Blueberry Donation account first for legal expenses if the legal language for this account allows, and moving on to the larger Donation account after that. Joan seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

## **7. MEETING WRAP-UP**

- a. Known items for February meeting
  - i. FONLS NOI #200-0208
  - ii. Article 97
  - iii. Funding of legal expenses

Joan moves to adjourn at 8:35pm. Seth seconds. The motion passes unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Minutes submitted by Bella Yeager.

Approved 3/2/26.

