

Leverett Conservation Commission Minutes: February 2, 2026

Start time: 7:10

Board members present: Joan Deely (Acting Chair); Seth Heminway; David Powicki; Bill Corwin (Voting Members)

Board members absent: Sarah Manteiga

Attendance: Sam Black, FONLS; Mitch Mulholland, FLP; Tom Hankinson, FLP and Selectboard; Marc Levesque, Foresight Land Services (sp?)

2. PUBLIC INQUIRIES: None

3. CONTINUED HEARING: Notice of Intent 200-0208: Friends of North Leverett Sawmill

Marc from SLS agrees to revised fee for this NOI. Seth moved to sign off on the NOI in the March meeting, pending receipt of the revised fee. Dave seconded, unanimous.

Members agreed that an O&M plan for the level spreader will need to be provided and conveyed this to Marc.

Discussion with Marc regarding the need for an O&M for Dave moved to include review of O&M with the March meeting review of the NOI. Deely seconded, unanimous.

4. NEW AND OLD BUSINESS

- Friends of Leverett Pond report.
 - This is the 4th year of a five-year project (see report). Mitch Holland recapped key points of the report. He will produce the proposal for 2026 work before February 15, 2026. FLP wants to consider request for an extension of 200-0196 for either 3 or 5 years, as the current permit expires 2/7/2027. Bella can assist with this.
 - Proposal for 2026 includes spot treatment of milfoil with ProcellaCOR, followed two weeks later with hydroraking. Mitch is concerned about continued spread of cattails.
- Update on Hicks/Botta land donation
 - The issue of an unclear boundary corner has been resolved with abutter. Mr. Hicks contacted surveyor to remind him to work on the survey, hopefully very soon.
- Open Order of Conditions: 200-0194 Shutesbury Rd. Culvert Replacement
 - This needs to be continued to the next meeting as the site visit can't be conducted with heavy snow cover.
- Request from Amherst College student to place trail cameras on 4H land
 - We agreed that this is a good activity for 4H land, with the following caveats to be conveyed to the student: don't aim the cameras at the trails to avoid capturing images of people using the trails; LCC does not accept any liability for possible damage to the cameras; the commission would like to see the results of the project.
- Woodard's Corner Drivable Trail to King Meadow Proposal
 - Discussion about issue of engineering design for the drivable trail. CPC member Nathorst wants to see input from outside engineer that would also build the trail.

BRF Administrator 2/3/2026 5:08 PM

Comment [1]: Tom suggested that you would pursue the extension details, for the March meeting, I think.

BRF Administrator 2/3/2026 5:07 PM

Comment [2]: Bella - could you respond the person who made the request? Thank you.

- Both Tom Hankinson and Matt Boucher disagree, as they believe DPW can build the trail themselves. Hankinson has suggested to Boucher that he contact engineer Chris Stoddard
- Powicki raised the question about what type of vehicle will the trail be built to handle; response indicated that it can handle anything up to and including emergency vehicles. 12' wide with three pullouts.
- Concerns about how much fill is added, removed, etc., and how to ensure safety of the trail during rainstorms and the like. Will guardrails be needed?
- DP raised questions about the transition of the trail from Woodard's Corner to the Gordon King property – what is the slope? Will the trail cut diagonally across that steep section? How to ensure safety of vehicles in that section?
- SH – suggested a short paved patch for transition between trail and Shutesbury Road to ease getting onto that road. TH said Boucher could consider that.
- SH reiterates that a box culvert is preferred although it is not listed in the CPC application.
- DP wants to know if DPW labor has been factored into the costs on the CPC application
- BC – raised issue of the neighbors who were going to be approached about access over their land. Pat Duffy contacted them, hadn't heard back, not sure if they are still interested.
- February 4 – CPC meeting, Dave will attend
- March 4 CPC meeting will include a public hearing.
- DP asks TH if any drawings of the trail have been created yet. Eva has prepared some, although the elevations on her map are not very precise. Her GPS can't mark small increments of topo change.
- CC would request that the cost of a formal engineering survey be requested from the applicant.
- TH suggested approaching Chris Stoddard, a professional engineer. If he agreed to work on site plans it would need to be completed before the March 4 CPC meeting.
- Trail needs to be designed as a 70-year road – want to avoid doing something that will need repair/replacement in a few years. Formal engineering is needed to ensure that the trail is designed correctly with these parameters in mind.
- DP noted that the map included with the CPC proposal will not be sufficient for the NOI to come. Will need to know quantities of fill added/removed for grading, etc.
- Legal Bills
 - DP found some old minutes stating that money in the blueberry fund is for "upkeep and maintenance..." so may not be used to legal fees associated the E/M project.
 - The ConCom agrees to authorize Bella to use large Donations account to pay the legal fees.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- No minutes to approve
- Brief discussion about Sarah remaining on the Commission – there is precedent for this, We agreed that we would like her to stay.

- Seth will follow up with Peter Sylvan to see if he is still interested in joining the commission.

6. MEETING WRAP-UP

- Known agenda items for March
 - FONLS NOI
 - FLP 2026 plan
 - Hicks/Botta land update
 - March meeting date: 3/2/2026

Commission enters Executive Session by roll call vote at 8:15 PM, to discuss access across 101 Shutesbury Road (Evans-Marlowe) to the Gordon King Life Estate property (Leverett Conservation Commission).

- Dave moves to exit Executive Session

Unanimous vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Minutes submitted by Joan Deely.

Approved 3/2/26.