



# TOWN OF STRATHAM

*Incorporated 1716*

10 Bunker Hill Avenue · Stratham, NH 03885

Town Clerk/Tax Collector 603-772-4741

Select Board's Office/Administration/Assessing 603-772-7391

Code Enforcement/Building Inspections/Planning 603-772-7391

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## **Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes July 23, 2025, 7:00 p.m.**

*Members present:* Chris West, Allison Knab, Brad Jones, Bruce Cote, Tim Copeland (alternate)

*Members absent:* Bob Keating, Dan McAuliffe, Ryan Olsen

*Town staff present:* Vanessa Price, Director of Planning and Building, Ken Lundberg, Stratham Department of Public Works

*Non-members present:* Jacob Kwapiszeski, Eversource

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

### ***Invasive Species***

Ken Lundberg of the DPW was present to discuss invasive species. A resident of Crockett Farm recently contacted the Commission out of concern about invasive species in the development. Mr. Lundberg was able to visit the site and speak with another resident there. He noted numerous invasives there, including glossy buckhorn, autumn olive, Japanese barberry, and multiflora. Mr. Lundberg that some invasive species will destroy a forest, such as bittersweet, while other species provide good food and cover for wildlife. There are different practices for removal depending on the species; he also noted no one in DPW is a licensed pesticide applicator. He is very interested in invasive species and wildlife conservation and was already planning to attend an invasive species workshop the following day. He will share any information he learns there, including the best time of year for removal/eradication.

The Commission discussed doing a spring workshop/information session with Mr. Lundberg and someone from UNH Cooperative Extension.

### ***Eversource***

Mr. Kwapiszeski presented the A126 and S154 Line Maintenance project, which will impact Stratham and Greenland. Some work will occur in the wetlands; there are six structures in Stratham. Fish and Game has completed their consultation and noted that there is cause for concern regarding rare turtles, so the work will have to be done October through March to minimize impact. Eversource is going through standard Dredge & Fill Permitting as well as Alteration of Terrain permitting. It is also permitted through the Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA. The Dredge and Fill application requires a request for comment from the town Conservation Commission. The Commission asked questions about the species of concerns and permanent versus temporary impacts to wetlands. The new poles will be weathered steel rather than wood.

Any comments for DES can be relayed directly to DES or through Mr. Kwapiszeski.

### ***Coastal Conservation Commission Roundtable***

Mr. Cote attended the most recent roundtable. There were two presentations, one on PFAS in Hampton Harbor and one on working toward a statewide ban on plastic bags. The Commission discussed signing on to support the ban; Ms. Price and Mr. Cote will look for follow-up information from the Roundtable.

#### ***Minutes:***

- Mr. Jones motioned, Mr. Cote seconded a motion to approve the June 25 minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

#### ***Mailbox***

- Three pieces of mail from SELT: annual report, newsletter for easement holders, news magazine.

#### ***Town and Other Business***

- Ms. Price reported that there is a planned walk/site visit to discuss tree cutting around the Stratham Hill Park tower. It will most likely take place at the end of August/beginning of September. The Commission expressed concern about past tree cutting and members plan to attend the site walk if possible.
- Mr. Copeland noted that he would like to continue being on the Conservation Commission as an alternate.
- Mr. Cote will be out of town for the next two meetings.

Mr. Copeland motioned, Ms. Cote seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Allison Knab*