

ALTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES ALTON TOWN HALL September 11, 2025

Members:

Gene Young, Chairman
Tom Diveny
Ken Sheehan, Alternate

Dana Rhodes, Vice Chairman
David Mank
Drew Carter, Selectman's Rep

Russ Wilder
Tara Lamper

Others Present:

Larry Brown, Mt. Major Snowmobile Club

Members Absent:

David Mank

Call Meeting to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:3 pm. Ken Sheehan was appointed to fill David Mank's seat for this meeting.

Approval of Agenda:

Add Larry Brown, Mt. Major Snomo Club presentation
Add OneDrive Monitoring tools demo
The agenda was approved with amendments.

Presentations/Consultations:

Larry Brown, Mt. Major Snomo Club, Coffin Brook crossing at Stockbridge Forest. The Club would like to install a corduroy bridge at the troublesome wetland crossing over the Coffin Brook tributary wetland on the Stockbridge Forest. After discussion, Russ Wilder moved and Tom Diveny seconded a motion to allow the Club to proceed with the plan as described by Mr. Brown. Approved by a vote of 6 yeas. Dana Rhodes arrived and joined the meeting at this time.

The Commission then discussed with Mr. Brown the filling and grading needed on the Lakeshore Rail Trails. Mr. Brown estimates that maximum of \$3,000 worth of materials and fuel would be needed to correct the problems in three places on the trail. The Commission decided to review the budget later in the meeting and then decide if it could finance the work from this year's budget.

Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes of 8/28/25

Standard Wetlands Dredge and Fill Applications:

- 1) **Standard Wetlands Application – John Calabro, 169 Hopewell Rd M21 L5-7** - The applicant is proposing to construct an over the water boathouse and breakwater in front of their property located on Lake Winnepesaukee at 169 Hopewell Road in Alton, NH. The applicant is applying for the least impacting alternative. In addition to the shallow waters in front of their property, the applicants are subjected to extreme wind & wave activity. These waves gather height and speed over the broads creating large wave activity. The applicant has

met with the NHDES on designing an appropriately sized breakwater to protect the shore and proposed boathouse. A wave study has been included with this application. (see application for full description)

Reviewed and discussed the application, agreed on the following comment:

The applicant states in section 2 "Project Description", paragraph 3, item 2 that the boathouse "is being placed far enough out from the shore to avoid the need for dredging". Again, in Attachment A, Part 1, section 1.1, the applicant states "The boathouse over the water has to be built further out into the water because of the shallow depths and ledge. This eliminates the need for dredging." yet again, in Section 1.XIII, is the statement ">>>boathouse complex will be placed at the location where water depths preclude having to dredge the lake bottom."

It is therefore alarming to find, on the **Construction, Sediment, & Erosion Control Specifications Plan**, item 7 of the GENERAL CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE, which states "Dredge area lakeward for boathouse access as shown."

We oppose allowing any dredging to take place for this project. And would ask the applicant to clarify whether or not dredging is called for.

We oppose this project for an over the water boathouse due to the precedent is will set for lake Winnepesaukee.

- 2) **Standard Dredge and Fill Application – Town of Alton Highway Dept., Hermit Rd M66A L19 & 22** - The Town of Alton is proposing to rehabilitate an existing crossing located on Hermit Road in Alton. The existing 36" CMP culverts are corroded along the bottom of the pipes. The applicant is proposing to slip line the existing 36" CMPs with two 30" HDPE smooth bore culverts. The proposed slip lining rehabilitation will maintain the hydraulic capacity, aquatic organism passage and connectivity within the stream system. The professional engineer responsible for the plans has provided a certification with this permit application. The proposed project is designed to minimize impact the maximum extent practicable and does not require any excavation of the bed and banks of the unnamed Tier 2 stream.

Reviewed the application, and have no objections.

Reoccurring/Unfinished Business & Projects:

(Incompleted projects may not be discussed at every meeting)

1) **Water Quality testing and monitoring**

Craycraft email, FB Environmental, Laura Diemers

explained the need for a report that can explain our water sampling data in layman's terms, and presented email from Bob Craycraft offering two UNH publications that he thought might suffice. They were found to be too technical. FB Environmental will present a proposal to produce such a report, for a cost of about \$5,000. The members suggested some alternatives, such as LWA and Lakes Region planning Commission. R. Wilder and T. Diveny will contact potential alternative sources.

Russ Wilder announced that the last lake water sampling will be done on September 18.

2) **Current Year Budget – 2025 Budget Justification sheet**

The proposed 2026 budget was reviewed, and it was decided that language should be added to specify funds for trail maintenance. A proposed \$5,000 addition for water sampling data reporting was removed.

It was agreed that up to \$3,000 would be used from the current budget to pay for fill and fuel for work on the Lakeshore Rail Trail as discussed with Larry Brown.

3) Onedrive Updates and improvements

Show OneDrive Monitoring tools

The chair gave a brief tour of the information and tools available for the members' use when preparing for monitoring and when writing the annual reports.

New Business:

- **Email / Letter question about Rail Trail**

Discussion of the Rich Westhoff letter and reply. Mr. Westhoff is updating the book "New Hampshire Rail Trails", and inquired about some aspects of use of the Lakeshore Rail Trails in Alton. The reply stated that although we allow bicycles on the trail, we do not want to publicize the fact.

Commissioner Reports:

Member Reports-

Tara Lamper commented on the lack of signs to dis-allow bicycles on our trails, and suggested that a policy of usage should be developed and adopted. It was agreed that a policy statement will be developed.

Notice of Intent to Cut Timber:

It was noted that SPNHF has filed an intent to cut timber on the Marks Reservation.

Correspondence:

- **NHDES - Forestry Statutory Permit-by-Notification, Alton, Tax Map #12, Lot #66**
- **NHDES- Reported Alleged Violation, 15 Archie Ln, M40 L36**
- **NHDES – Inspection Notice, Wildsong Farm Pond Dam**

Date and time of next meeting:

September 25th 2025 @ 6PM

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Young
Chairman