OFFICE OF THE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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Conservation Commission Minutes **Approved: April 27, 2026**
Monday, April 13, 2026

Chair Alan Chaney called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.
Members present: Marijan Andacic, Leah Basbanes, Alan Chase, Kate DeLoureiro, and Al Starbird

Members absent: Bridgette Pontbriand

Meeting held: At the Dunstable Town Hall, 511 Main Street, lower level

Public Meeting: Request for Determination of Applicability: Groton Water Main Expansion Project on Groton/Kemp Streets

Tyler Schmidt of Apex Companies, LLC appeared on behalf of the applicant, the Groton Water Department. The RDA submission is for a second water main extension project intended to mitigate PFAS contamination affecting the Groton-Dunstable Regional High School and nearby residential wells. The latest PFAS sampling identified additional affected properties along Kemp Street within Dunstable. Five properties, with PFAS concentrations exceeding 4 parts per trillion, will receive municipal water connections at no cost. This new project represents an additional water main extension following up on a prior phase submitted in 2024.

Tyler shared that the proposed work will occur primarily within existing roadway layouts and associated buffer zones. Environmental protection measures include installation of filter socks at wetland boundaries, silt sacks within catch basins, trench dewatering through filtration bags, prohibition of dewatering and material stockpiling within 100 feet of wetlands, and avoidance of direct wetland impact. He noted that construction should begin this summer with completion in fall 2026.

Following discussion, the Commission determined that the project, as proposed, would not alter wetland resource areas.

- Leah moved to issue a Negative 3 Determination of Applicability under the Wetlands Protection Act, finding that a Notice of Intent is not required. Alan Chase seconded. – Motion passed unanimously.

NOI Public Hearing Continuation – 164 Pleasant St/MCO Cottages for MCO & Associates

The DEP file number has still not yet been issued for this project. As such, the applicant was not in attendance and had formally requested a continuation of the hearing via email to the next DCC meeting on April 27th.

- Kate made a motion to accept the public hearing extension request. Marijan seconded the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Reschedule May DCC Meetings due to Town Meeting, 5/11th & Memorial Day Holiday, 5/25th

- Leah motioned to reschedule the May 11th meeting to Tuesday, May 12th at 6:30pm and the May 25th meeting to Tuesday, May 27th at 6:30pm. Alan Chase seconded the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Emergency Permit/Beaver Mitigation – Nashua River Rail Trail Culvert at Unkety Brook

The Commission discussed progress on emergency beaver mitigation measures at the Nashua River Rail Trail culvert, coordinated with the Board of Health and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

- Marijan moved to support extension of the emergency permit to allow additional time for installation of the beaver deceiver system. Kate seconded the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Stewardship

- **Forestry:**
  - Alan shared that the timber harvesting at Bahsler Forest yielded $5,204.10 in revenue for approximately five acres of pine.
  - Alan noted that the Farnsworth Wildlife Refuge harvest has been paused due to whippoorwill nesting season. Timbering completion is expected to finish by July with a projected overrun of revenue above the original contract.

a) DCC Property Maintenance

- **Flat Rock and Stone Arch Bridge Conservation Areas** – Continued concerns were discussed regarding Flat Rock driveway erosion and deterioration of the Stone Arch Bridge apron, with repairs hoped for prior to the upcoming June 13th trail race. Coordination with the Roads Department is ongoing to improve access conditions.

APPROVED

- **Unkety Brook Conservation Area** *(near 93 Adams Street)* – Removal of a downed tree was completed at no cost and the appreciation of the Commission.
- **Field Mowing**: Brush hogging this year is needed for Unkety Woods and the Flat Rock fields. Flat Rock mowing should occur following the bittersweet invasives treatment scheduled for later in summer.
- **Conservation Property Signage** – The Commission received the two conservation property signs for Stoddard and Meeting House Hill Conservation Areas from the Massachusetts Correctional Industries program.

b) Programs and Outreach

- **DCC Trails & Properties Website** – The Commission discussed securing the conservation trails website domain: "**dunstableconcommtrails.org**" for a three-year term with registration at a cost of $56.
- **DCC Monday Morning Walks in May** – Chair Alan will guide three walks of DCC and/or DRLT properties on May 4th, 11th and 18th this Spring, weather permitting. Interested hikers should meet at the Town Hall parking area for 9am, to caravan in their own vehicles to the selected property of the day.
- **Conservation Volunteer Day** – Flat Rock CA Trail cleanup day has been scheduled for May 9, 2026, from 9a-2pm, with a rain date of May 16th. Volunteers will assist with trail cleanup, identifying and addressing some invasives, light brush clearing, and general property maintenance, helping keep Flat Rock safe, accessible, and enjoyable for all who visit.

  The Administrator has created an Eventbrite registration link which will be posted to the Town's social medias sites to encourage participation: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/conservation-commission-flat-rock-conservation-area-volunteer-cleanup-tickets-1987359353324

- **Flat Rock Trail Race –** The Humane Society of Greater Nashua trail race on the DCC and DRLT properties off Flat Rock CA is scheduled for June 13, 2026, starting at 8am. Flat Rock has two race options: a 5-mile trail run/walk/hike, or a 6-hour race on the same 5-mile loop. The organizers are coordinating logistics and insurance binders for neighbors. For more information and registration, go to: https://sites.google.com/view/flatrocktrailrace/home

Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2026

- Marijan made a motion to approve the March 23rd meeting minutes. Kate seconded the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED

Bills/Payroll

- Alan Chase made a motion to sign off on one payroll. Marijan seconded the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.
- Kate made a motion to sign off on a $54.46 Staples invoice for office supplies. Marijan seconded the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

Leah moved to close the meeting at 7:29PM. Kate seconded the motion. – Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting scheduled is on Monday, April 27, 2026, at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Rock
Administrative Coordinator
Dunstable Conservation Commission

APPROVED