

Lanesborough Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2025 starting at 6pm
Lanesborough Town Hall Community Room
Remote participation was accessed through the Zoom platform.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87861391690?pwd=FCg42jitF1iADPMF0eMdrGsQn4bhgG.1>

Meeting ID: 878 6139 1690

Passcode: 994895

Dial by your location

- +1 309 205 3325 US

- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

In attendance:

Courtney Dondi, Chairing

Linda Belanger

Jose Larios

Stacy Parsons, Agent (non-voting)

Regrets: Maggie Jennings, Joe Trybus

6pm Review of anticipated spring herbicide treatment of Pontoosuc Lake (*Informational Only*)

Lee Hauge, Harbormaster

Dominic Meringolo, Solitude Lake Management (by Zoom)

- No proposal has been submitted for review or approval by the Commission. Review of the proposed spring treatment of the lake would be posted as a special meeting.
- L. Hauge discussed the proposed timeline.
 - Anticipating completing the macrophyte survey on 5/6 and submitting the proposed treatment plan to the third party review by 5/8. The proposed plan will be submitted to the Commission by 5/9 for a special meeting to be held for Commission review on 5/13 @ 5pm.
 - Lake is being posted in anticipation of approval of the plan and the lake being treated on 5/15. Order of Conditions requires 7-10 day prior public notice.
- D. Meringolo, Solitude, reported that the herbicide license application has been submitted. He anticipates the license being issued and submitted to the Commission prior to the meeting on 5/13.
- S. Parsons will post the special meeting for 5/13 at 5pm. The meeting will be in the Community Room of Town Hall and include a Zoom option for remote participation. The Pittsfield Conservation Agent will be copied on all communications and invited to attend. The Order of Conditions for Pittsfield requires a separate review and approval.
- No further action by the Commission.

6:30pm Request for Determination submitted for construction of a new septic system to upgrade an existing failed system in accordance with Title 5 at 120 Bull Hill Road.

Aaron Biasin White Engineering

- A Determination was issued in 2018. The system was never built and the 2018 permit has expired. Proposed plan mirrors the application that was submitted previously to bring the system into compliance with Title 5 regulations.
- The proposed plan shows the new field located greater than 100' from the perennial stream. The existing tank will remain in place. The existing leach field will be discontinued and remain in place.
- All work is restricted to the existing lawn area. Erosion controls will be installed and maintained as shown on plan and serve as the limit of work line
- C. Dondi motioned to approve the plan as presented. Seconded by L. Belanger. Unanimous approval.

Other Business:

- Reviewed April Meeting Minutes. The minutes are sent for review by the Commission prior to the meeting. C. Dondi made the motion to approve as presented. Seconded by L. Belanger. Unanimous approval. Meeting minutes are posted to the Town website. Hard copies are in the Commission Office.
- Received copy of April reports. The Commission line item is 73.28% expended. All invoices and legal notices are up to date.
 - S. Parsons recommending the Commission purchase their own Zoom account. Will present a quote at the June meeting for review and discussion. If approved, recommending start the new account with the new fiscal year.
- Check In: Site Walk at BNRC Farnum's Property and updated draft Conservation Restriction
 - L. Belanger and S. Parsons walked the site with BNRC staff and Mass Audubon representative,
 - Next steps will be to lay out the proposed trail design. Due to the excessive amount of invasive plants, the work to create the trails may be done by an outside contractor.
 - Reviewed connectivity with the High Road Trail and Ashwillticook Trail.
 - Reviewed area where ATVs have historically crossed the property. The trail is well defined with little/no erosion. It appears that off road vehicle use is restricted to that well defined trail.
 - Will continue to work on the Conservation Restriction. Mass Audubon may be able to partner with the Town to create the baseline mapping required as part of the restriction.
- Check In: Friends of Pontoosuc Annual Meeting
 - S. Parsons attended to provide information on the work of the Commission. Reminded attendees about the Lanesborough Dock Bylaw and opportunities to comment on the draft MA Guide to Lake Management.
 - There was discussion regarding the role of Friends of Pontoosuc and their 501C3 status. The Lanesborough Conservation Commission makes no comment or opinion regarding issues or concerns with how the Friends of Pontoosuc is functioning or their 501C3 status. Questions or can be directed to Friends of Pontoosuc contacts Lee Hauge or Mike Callhan or referred to the Attorney General's Office.
 - The Commission has previously addressed questions regarding the same person acting as Harbormaster for Lanesborough and President of Friends of Pontoosuc. The Lanesborough Conservation Commission makes no comment or opinion regarding Lee Hauge's role as Harbormaster and Chair/President of Friends of Pontoosuc. Questions or concerns regarding these matters can be directed to the Lanesborough Town Administrator/Selectboard or State Ethics Commission.
 - S. Parsons clarified that Friends of Pontoosuc volunteers help support the Orders of Conditions issued for work in and around the lake but hold no permits through the Lanesborough Conservation Commission.
 - S. Parsons provided clarification that, for Lanesborough, the Friends of Pontoosuc is not listed as the applicant on the Order of Conditions for Aquatic Plant Management. The applicant is the Town of Lanesborough.
 - S. Parsons provided clarification that the Friends of Pontoosuc is not listed as the applicant on the Extended Order of Conditions for the drawdown of Pontoosuc Lake. The applicant is DCR and the property owner is DCCAM.
 - Friends of Pontoosuc is anticipating holding another meeting in the coming months to continue to work on their internal process. Anyone interested should contact Lee Hauge or Mike Callahan, Friends of Pontoosuc.
- L. Belanger asked about the approved Administrative Approval Form. S. Parsons will resend to the Commission and request to have it posted to the Town website.
- Schedule site visit: DPW Bundled NOI 2025 projects. S. Parsons will send a follow up email to schedule a date and time for the Commission to review proposed projects with DPW and their consultant.

Information for the Good of the Commission~

- *May is American Wetlands Month!* <https://www.fws.gov/story/5-things-you-need-know-about-wetlands>
- *S. Parsons submitted the 2024 report for inclusion in the 2024 Town Report.*
- *S. Parsons provided support to Town and DFW in addressing concern for nesting osprey at the Berkshire Mall and location for the carnival.*
- *S. Parsons followed up with S. Jenkins, BRPC, regarding Open Space documents.*
- *Received Abutter Notification for Notice of Intent submitted by the Department of Fish and Wildlife for reconstruction of the public boat launch to meet ADA specifications. All work is located in Cheshire. No concerns.*
- *The Commission received a copy of the Chapter 91 Waterways license for the dock at 203 Narragansett Avenue.*
- *Received request to sign off on Building Permit for new garage at 162 Bailey Road. Work is outside the 100' buffer to identified BVW. No review required.*
- *A 2025 draft of The Massachusetts Guide to Lake Management (MassGLM) has been released for the public and regulatory agency review and comment. This version of the MassGLM is intended to provide an update to the 2004 Generic Environmental Impact Report on Eutrophication and Aquatic Plant Management in Massachusetts and the accompanying Practical Guide to Lake Management in Massachusetts. Over the last two decades, much experience has been gained with the management of lakes and ponds. Additionally, changes in regulations have created additional needs not addressed in 2004 and this document incorporates this information. This 2025 guide incorporates updates to both the GEIR and Practical Guide into one hybrid document titled "The Massachusetts Guide to Lake Management (MassGLM): <https://www.mass.gov/doc/update-to-geir-and-practical-guide-for-lake-management/download>*

Next Meetings:

- Special Meeting to review the proposed spring treatment of Pontoosuc Lake to be held on 5/13 at 5pm.
- Next regularly scheduled meeting: June 2, 2025 starting at 6pm.

Adjourned at 6:35 pm