

Jefferson Conservation Commission

Minutes

20 May 2025

Jefferson Community Center

178 Meadows Rd

Jefferson, NH 03583

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm, and Jamie Savage, Nancy Decourcey, David Govatski, and Charles Muller were present as a quorum. David Passios was also present.
2. Approved the April Minutes with no changes.
3. Old Business:
 - a. Israel River and Carter Cut—David Passios discussed the Ammonoosuc River meeting in Lisbon with Dr Field. Both the Ammonoosuc and Israel Rivers have similar characteristics.
 - b. David Passios also discussed the Israel River Phase 1 report. David Govatski will send a copy to each CC member to review. The pipeline company paid for it, but funding issues are holding up Phase 2 due to the hold on grants for infrastructure work.
 - c. Municipal Solar: David Govatski reported that the electricity generated by the solar panels provides enough to cover the community center's monthly electrical charges. August will mark a whole year since the town has had solar, and we will have a much better idea of the savings. Melissa Elander is helping Amanda with the federal grant of approximately \$36,000 to help cover the initial cost. Celesta is also helping Amanda finalize the State of NH grant of approximately \$9,600. The Town will also collect several hundred dollars annually for renewable energy credits.
4. The commission discussed tract 12/7, a 10-acre tract of wetlands surrounded by the Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge. The US Fish and Wildlife Service would like to acquire this wetland. With Select Board approval, the USFWS would need to conduct an appraisal. There is no cost to the town for the appraisal and no obligation to sell once the appraisal and offer are made. The commission voted to have David Govatski send the Permission to Inspect and Appraise form to the Select Board.
5. The Hartley Conservation Easement was monitored on 3 May, and no issues were noted. Charles Muller will complete the paperwork and send it to the NH LCHP.
6. The Eversource Power Line Project is going well; no issues were reported.
7. The new Waumbek subdivision is in an archaeologically sensitive area, and the State Historic Preservation Office is asking for a voluntary examination of the site before construction begins. This would be a voluntary decision at no charge to the landowner, using the state archaeologist and a team of volunteers.
8. No new business, and the meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.
9. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 17 June 2025.

David Govatski

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