

Jefferson Conservation Commission
Minutes
17 February 2026
Jefferson Community Center
178 Meadows Rd
Jefferson, NH 03583

1. The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM with four members present. Nancy Decourcey, Dave Passios, Jamie Savage, and David Govatski. We had a quorum.
2. Approved the 20 January 2026 Minutes.
3. Old Business:
 - a. Natural Resource Inventory: We are awaiting a bid quote from Elise Lawson of Watershed to Wildlife for creating 14 maps for the Jefferson Natural Resource Inventory. We did not receive quotes from two other potential contractors, possibly because the project was too small. Elise Lawson also works with the Randolph Town Forest Commission and has completed projects in neighboring towns.
 - b. Discussion of the conservation fund. We had a brief discussion about how to use the conservation fund and its original intent. We deferred discussion until the March meeting to allow Charles to provide suggestions.
4. Trail work updates.
 - a. Blowdowns were removed on the Mud Pond Trail.
 - b. The US Fish and Wildlife Service and Cohos Trail Association are planning a project to improve the Whipple Trail this year. Approximately 15 bog bridges will be replaced this summer.
 - c. Trail use by skiers, snowshoers, and hikers remains steady on the Jefferson Trails at Pondicherry and Mt. Waumbek. The deep snowpack has allowed for excellent snowmobiling on the Presidential Rail Trail and other snowmobile trails in town.
5. We reviewed the initial proposal for the White Mountain National Forest's Jefferson Notch Vegetation Management Project. This project will take place on both sides of Jefferson Notch Road and will mainly use uneven-aged management in northern hardwood stands. It is primarily a reentry after a similar timber harvest in the early 2000s. Existing roads will be used, and at least four temporary bridges will be required to cross streams. The Town will receive a 10% timber yield tax on the value of stumpage cut in Jefferson. Additionally, Coos County will get 25% of the revenue from the US Forest Service for schools in the county under the Secure Rural Schools Act. Local contractors are also likely to be involved in the proposed timber harvesting. The Conservation Commission will identify any issues and concerns and work with WMNF to address them. We see an opportunity to open some vistas along Jefferson Notch Road as part of the project. We also talked about the need for additional aspen and paper birch regeneration to support wildlife.
6. No new business. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.
7. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 17 March 2026.

David Govatski
18 and 19 February 2026
ITEM 3B ADDED 19 FEBRUARY.