



City of Nashua
Conservation Commission
229 Main Street
Nashua NH 03061-2019

Planning & Zoning 589-3090
Fax 589-3119
Web www.nashuanh.gov

NASHUA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 7, 2026

A. Call to order

A regular meeting of the Nashua Conservation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 7:00 PM, 229 Main Street, City Hall.

B. Roll call

Members present:

Sherry Dutzy, Chair
Dick Widhu, Vice Chair
Carol Sarno
Will Darby (@7:03pm)
Gloria McCarthy
Brandon Pierotti
Dale Carruth
Amanda Griffith

Megan Cook (Absent)

Also, in Attendance: Tim Sennott, Alderman Ward 7

Levent Akinci, Sustainability Planner

C. Approval of minutes

March 17, 2026

MOTION to approve minutes as amended by Commissioner Carruth.
Seconded by Commissioner Sarno.

MOTION CARRIED

March 24, 2026 Site Walk-3 Osgood

MOTION to approve minutes as amended by Commissioner Darby.
Seconded by Commissioner Widhu.

MOTION CARRIED

March 31, 2026 Site Walk-55A Middle Dunstable Rd

MOTION to approve minutes as amended by Commissioner Pierotti.
Seconded by Commissioner Sarno.

MOTION CARRIED

D. Old Business:

James Mirakian, 3 Osgood Road. Proposal to cut 1 tree and build a 12ft x 16ft shed in the 40-foot, wetland buffer for wetlands greater than 9000 square feet. Map A. Lot 794. Zone R-A - Urban Residence. Ward 7.

DISCUSSION ENSUED THAT THE TREE HAS ALREADY BEEN CUT. THE COMMISSION SUGGESTS NOT USING FERTILIZER IN THE BACKYARD AND PLANTING POLLINATOR FRIENDLY SHRUBS.

Mr. Mirakian led a discussion on contacting his landscaper and pest control provider about fertilizers and pesticides.

Commissioner Darby made a motion for a favorable recommendation with the amended plan to move the shed 5 feet away from the house, the stipulation for planting blueberry bushes and winterberry along the stream, stop using fertilizers on the lawn and monumentation of the area.

Seconded by: Commissioner Widhu

Commissioner Dutzy abstains (she was not at the site walk)

MOTION CARRIES

Clint Licqurish, 19 Vista Way. Proposal to remove 21 trees posing a threat to the applicant's home, within the wetland buffer for a wetland greater than 9000 square feet. Map D. Lot 23. Zone R-40 - Rural Residence. Ward 5.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT THIS REQUEST STILL AWAITING THE REPORT ON TREES. MR. LICQURISH WILL BE AWAY NEXT MONTH, SO THE REPORT WILL LIKELY BE PUSHED OUT ONE MONTH FURTHER. THE LEVEL 2 VISIT

WAS CONDUCTED AND THE ARBORIST DID FIND SOME TREES THAT WERE MARKED FOR REMOVAL WERE DETERMINED TO POSE NO RISK TO THE HOUSE.

Commissioner Dutzy led a discussion that the arborist at the level 2 visit stated that New Hampshire does not license arborists, only certifies them. The commission may want to verify this information and consider action at the state level.

Commissioner Sarno discussed whether going forward in the future should the commission advise homeowners to consult with an ISA certified tree risk assessor as a first step when dealing with a protentional hazardous tree in a wetland, a wetland buffer or conservation easement.

Levent Akinci responded by stating currently, notification to the commission is only required if the tree is within a wetland or wetland buffer.

Commissioner Darby brought up a discussion about cutting trees in a conservation subdivision may require Zoning Board approval if it affects the percentage mandated by the zoning code.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT CREATING A LIST OF CERTIFIED ARBORISTS FOR RESIDENTS. THE LIST WOULD FUNCTION SIMILARLY TO THE LIST OF WETLAND SCIENTISTS, OFFERING OPTIONS WITHOUT RESTRICTING CHOICES.

Bentley Family Trust (Charles H. & Gabrielle H. Bentley), 55A Middle Dunstable Road. Proposal to subdivide existing lot into two residential lots (1614, 1614A), and construct a new dwelling unit on lot 1614A, with temporary impacts to approximately 2,2025± SF of wetland buffer and the removal of one tree within the wetland buffer. Map B. Lot 1614. Zone R-18 - Suburban Residence. Ward 9.

Mr. Giuffrida gave a re-cap and presented revised plans, including moving the retaining wall to five feet from the proposed building. This change reduces the wetland buffer impact and may help save trees. A conservation seed mix is proposed for the rear of the wall and possibly between the wall and the home. Non-native species have been removed from the landscape detail. The wall truncation will create a larger buffer area for naturalization.

The commission discussed stipulations for a favorable recommendation.

- Monumentation spaced 50 feet apart.

- Naturalizing the wetland buffer with native plants.
- Limiting the lawn area and encouraging landscaping conducive to wildlife habitat.
- Commissioner Sarno suggested not mowing the native seed mix in the wetland buffer more than once a year and planting blueberry and winterberry shrubs.
- A request was made for the developer to consider using native plants that are shade tolerant and attract songbirds and pollinators.

Commissioner Dutzy made a motion for a favorable recommendation for the revised plan with the following stipulations:

- Acceptance of the revised plan
- Monumentation along the wetland buffer
- A native seed mix within the wetland buffer, mowed only once a year, within the wetland buffer.
- A request for native plantings be naturalized along the wetland buffer and around the house limiting the areas of grass.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Carruth

MOTION CARRIES

E. New Business:

Mark Lessard and Jane McCutcheon, 26 Verona Street. Proposal to build a 12ft x 12ft deck on the rear of the existing house with permanent impact to 144 SF of the wetland buffer for a prime wetland. Map 101. Lot 151A. Zone R-B - Urban Residence. Ward 6.

Mr. Lessard led a discussion that he would like to put a 12x12 deck on the back of the house. The property is mostly in the wetland buffer. He purchased the home about 3 months ago. The realtor mentioned the wetland buffer, but there was no education in terms of what that might be. He would like to make most of the lawn disappear and plant stuff to solidify the hill going up from the house.

Commissioner Dutzy suggested a site visit be scheduled.

A site visit is scheduled for April 15, 2026 at 6:15PM

John J. Flatley, Innovative Way Extension. Proposal to extend Innovative Way for the purpose of providing access to existing tax map "A" parcels 44, 968, 47, 92, 712 & 48 and map 114, lot 231 to develop the Northern Tech Center, with temporary impacts to approximately 4,500± SF and permanent impacts to approximately 300± SF of wetland buffer for wetlands greater than 9000 SF. Map A. Lots 44, 45, 47, 48, 92, 712 and 986. Map 114. Lot 231. Zone PI - Park Industrial. Ward 8.

Chris Guida introduced himself, he is a wetland and soil scientist and septic designer with Fieldstone he is here to present a proposal for the northern section of Innovative Way and Dozer Road. The proposal was previously walked in 2023, approved by the planning board, and had a variance that expired. The issues include temporary buffer impacts (4,500 square feet total, 300 square feet permanent) mainly for grading, with retaining wall proposed to stay out of the wetlands. The site has an existing 24-inch concrete culvert and a filled area from a previous uncompleted development proposal. The project involves approximately 990,000 square feet of terrain alteration. The terrain alteration includes slicing of the hillside for a flex building, similar to the Spyglass Brewery. A retaining wall is proposed to prevent the roadway embankment from encroaching on the forested wetland. The initial proposal had involved grading 2, 1 side slopes that would have extended into the wetland area without a retaining wall. The roadway will be filled, typically with a cut on one side and a fill on the other. A retaining wall is proposed to avoid disturbing the wetland area with dirt, silt, or fill. Planting soil will be added in front of the retaining wall, and the side slopes will be revegetated. The retaining wall is what will stop the fill from going into the wetlands. Juniper is a hardy native plant with good roots that could be used as ground cover.

Commissioner Sarno: I just want to ask, have there been any vernal pools found on the site?

Chris Guida explained that there appear to be some but they are very shallow and dry out quickly. No vernal pools with obligate species have been found. There has been man-made disturbance over the years, including drainage ditches and culverts. The updated Natural Heritage Bureau review identified the eastern box turtle and greater prince gentian.

Commissioner Darby asked about the grading and in order to do that

the trees would have to all be cut down.

Chris Guida confirmed that is correct.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT THE CLEARING AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Site walk scheduled for April 20, 2026 at 5:30pm. Parking is available along the road near the trail at Innovative way.

F. NCC Correspondence and Communications

NONE

G. Commissioners Discussion

AMPHIBIAN CROSSING

- Monitoring has been conducted for five nights on Groton Rd in southwest Nashua.
- Living amphibians found: four spotted salamanders, eight blue-spotted/Jefferson complex salamanders, one four-toed salamander, one eastern newt, 24 wood frogs, and 73 spring peepers.
- Most salamanders were traveling north away from the area being developed for the playing field.
- Jesse has dedicated 17 hours to monitoring and saving amphibians.
- The Jefferson/ blue-spotted salamander is a species of greatest need of conservation in New Hampshire, and findings were reported to fish and game.
- There have been no Jefferson/blue-spotted salamander egg masses reported in vernal pools before.
- The fish and Game department has authorized three pilot studies to do underpasses for salamanders and Wood frogs.
- Commissioner Dutzy asked to follow the project to see how successful it is and what the cost might be.
- If successful the commission might want to consider underpasses, especially at the crossing.
- Currently there are five volunteers

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE:

- The nature challenge is an attempt to document all the wild living species in various cities and towns globally.
- The conservation commission is championing the effort this year.
- There will be hikes each day, from 9 to 11 on four conservation properties:

Buckmeadow on the 24th/ Lovewell on the 25th / Terrell on the 26th/ Northwest on the 27th

- Information is available on the conservation commission facebook page and website, and will also be posted by The Nature Conservancy.

SUSTAINABILITY FAIR:

- Setup will be around 10am and the fair is at 11AM to 2PM
- The commission should invest in a table covering for sustainability fairs.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT A POSSIBLE PROPOSAL FOR AN ORDINANCE FOR TREE CUTTERS.

TREE GROUP:

- The Planting will be done in the Tree Streets.
- A list of native New England trees is being developed.
- The vision is a pilot project where the committee contacts homeowners, looks at their site, makes a recommendation, and works to get the trees planted.
- The conservation commission would pay for the trees
- The committee needs to come to the commission with a plan and some hard facts.

535 MAIN DUNSTABLE ROAD PROPERTY:

- Landowner, Geoffrey Lynch, was contacted and claimed no cutting occurred within the wetland buffer zone.

- There is concern about how to verify this claim and whether a wetland scientist was involved.
- There is a stream on the far side, and the ground appears to be leveled into it.
- Code Enforcement will determine if cutting occurred within the wetland buffer, but a wetland scientist is needed to delineation.
- Question on can a hold be put on a building permit until the wetland delineation is done.
- The conservation commission will send a letter to Mr. Lynch requesting the wetland delineation.

JOYCE PARK TREE CUTTING AND REDESIGN:

- * Trees were cut down in Joyce Park related to a project, before discussion or approval.
- * The planning department mentioned new plans that are part of a redevelopment project approved by the board of Alderman for a parking area, trailhead, and kiosk.
- * The trees where cut along Ingalls, where parking is planned.
- * There is confusion about how the contractor knew to cut the trees and who authorized it.
- * There is a desire for a bridge from the community into Joyce Park.
- * There is a need to be involved in the design process to avoid surprises.
- * There is a preference for gravel and a natural look for the parking area.
- * There is potential for remediation in the area, possibly including clearing invasive' s in the connected Joyce Park.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT A BILL COMING BEFORE THE HOUSE THAT WILL REQUEST CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS TO INVENTORY HABITAT STRONGHOLDS AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.

Levent Akinci led a discussion on the three properties that came up for sale. The update is legal counsel for the city suggested that the three properties go up for auction. Should there be no

interest in the properties, then they will be retained by the city for conservation purposes.

H. Committee Reports

NONE

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NONE

I. Public Comment Related to Items on the Agenda -

NONE

J. Nonpublic Session per. RSA 91-A: 3 II (d) lands (Roll call vote required).

NONE

K. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn by Commissioner Darby at 9:16 PM

SECONDED by Commissioner Carruth

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting notes taken by Nichole Wilkins