



City of Nashua
Conservation Commission
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NASHUA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

September 2, 2025

A. Call to order

A regular meeting of the Nashua Conservation Commission was called to order on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 7:00 PM, 229 Main Street, City Hall.

B. Roll call

Members present:

Sherry Dutzy, Chair
Dick Widhu, Vice Chair
Carol Sarno
Dale Carruth
Will Darby
Amanda Griffith

Gloria McCarthy (Absent)
Megan Cook (Absent)
Brandon Pierotti (Arrived late)

Also, in Attendance: Levent Akinci, Sustainability Planner

C. Approval of minutes

July 14, 2025 Site walk: Teak Drive

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

MOTION CARRIED

August 5, 2025

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

MOTION CARRIED

D. Old Business:

NONE

E. New Business:

City of Nashua, Department of Public Works (applicant), 848 West Hollis Street (Four Hills Landfill). Proposal to develop a new 1-story, 127,855± SF vehicle storage and maintenance building, an auto wash building, salt shed, covered/uncovered parking spaces, laydown areas, and associated site improvements on a portion of the City-owned 300± acre Four Hills Landfill property, with impact to approximately 3,392± SF of wetlands. Map D. Lot 54. Zone R-30 - Suburban Residence. Ward 5.

Tom Zajak (Hayner Swanson/IMEG) introduced himself and presented the project to the board. It is a one-story 128,000 sq. ft public works garage and maintenance building. The project will disturb 3,992 sq. ft of wetlands, requiring a special exception from the zoning board of adjustment. The project site is about 15 acres of the 300-acre Four Hills Landfill property. The fire training facility will be relocated as part of this project, with a majority of the project area being previously disturbed. It was identified that 4 wetland areas are within the proposed site. Wetland (A) is a constructed stormwater pond for landfill operations. Wetland (B) has drainage swales that have turned into wetlands and is the subject of the application. Wetlands (C) and (D) are man-made drainages/roadside ditches and constructed wetlands, respectively. All wetlands are man-made and in disturbed areas, governed by DES permits, but are interpreted as not having local wetland buffers. The building aims to consolidate DPW operations and store city vehicles inside to prolong their life span. The facility will include vehicle storage, fleet maintenance, expand employee parking and connectivity to the existing administrative building. Additional features include, a detached auto wash, salt shed, and material storage area. This will also provide a "lay down" area which is a graded flat gravel area for storing extra pipe material, sand, gravel and trailers.

Commissioner Dutzy asked for clarification regarding wetlands designations and impact areas on the maps.

Tom Zajak and Brandon Quigley clarified on the photo maps provided to the board what areas will be impacted.

Commissioner Sarno asked for clarification on the salt shed, vehicle washing and storing if any of this proposed site will drain into the wetlands.

Tom Zajak clarified that the new site will have new stormwater management areas. The site will drain into wetlands A, C, and D. The new stormwater drainage will have more management before it gets to the stream and will be held to a high level of mitigation.

Commissioner Darby asked for clarification on the Salt Shed.

Tom Zajak explained that the shed is fully enclosed, it has walls to the ground, vehicles enter, turn around, load and exit.

Commissioner Darby lead a discussion about the number of trees that will be removed, especially near the wetland, for a parking lot. And asked if other alternatives had been considered.

Tom Zajak explained that there were a number of options considered in terms on where to put stuff. The city has a long list of things they would like to include in this program. They tried to maintain a 100-ft buffer and minimize the impact on the wooded area. Other access roads on site do not support larger vehicles. The goal is to consolidate everything into one spot.

DISCUSSION INSUED ABOUT THE TREE AREA THAT WILL BE CUT AND GRADED AND/OR PAVED.

Commissioner Dutzy: What is the proposed contact Jellyfish filter

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT JELLYFISH FILTERS, INFILTRATION STOMWATER MANAGEMENT AND NET METERING CREDITS

Commissioner Dutzy brought up the discussion about the DPW having 300 acres but there are claims from that department that they don't have enough land. Asking if there are permits or terms that administrative buildings and maintenance functions can only occupy a portion of a landfill and the rest of the property has to be for trash.

Tom Zajak: I think it's about proximity and consolidating everything together in terms of employees and the infrastructure in terms of roads and utilities to push portions of this to the back of the site.

DISSUSSION ENSUED ABOUT WETLAND MITIGATION

Commissioner Sarno lead a discussion and suggested dedicating 4,000 sq. ft of space into a conservation easement near the vernal pool on Teak Dr for the wildlife habitat. This would add to the previous requested of 12,000 sq. ft.

Commissioner Dutzy requested this conservation easement request will be kept on the agenda for ongoing discussion.

Commissioner Widhu lead a discussion on the "lay down" area and it being a large area of where the trees will be cut. And if there is a possibility of altering the "lay down" area.

Tom Zajak addressed this by agreeing to discuss this with the team and maybe identifying some other areas on site. A full connection with a "lay down" extension was considered but reduced to minimize the footprint. And a tiered "lay down" area is not feasible due to the materials being stored. The proposed "lay down" area is estimated to be 80 ft wide by 300 ft long (24,000 sq. ft)

A site walk is scheduled for Thursday September 11th, at 5:30pm. Attendees will meet in front of the admin building at 848 West Hollis Street, second entrance.

F. NCC Correspondence and Communications

NONE

G. Commissioners Discussion

Sculpture Discussion:

Commissioner Dutzy lead a discussion that Deb Chisholm has contacted the International Sculpture Symposium and a rep will attend the October meeting. It was expressed that the artist was insistent about the sculptures location which is within the wetland buffer zone. This zone does not show up on the GIS map.

There is a disagreement about whether the commission would have approved the sculptures materials and theme if consulted initially. The DPW is no longer involved in placing sculptures; a separate team handles it. There is a suggestion to update GIS maps to show buffer zones and in the future the commission should be consulted for any sightings on conservation land. There was a suggestion to move the sculpture to the river walk.

Environmental Justice Advocate Discussion:

Commissioner Dutzy lead a discussion about Marina Vaz from the Conservation Law Foundation, an environmental justice advocate, who wants to connect with the commission. An invite to the next meeting will be extended.

DISCUSSION INSUED ABOUT THE DPW MOWING A WIDE SWATH ON A PATH. AS WELL AS A REMINDER THAT RIVIER UNIVERSITY FRESHMAN CLASS WILL VOLUNTEER ON THE 20th OF SEPTEMBER TO WORK ON CUTTING DOWN SCRUB BRUSH.

Bishop Guertin High School Day of Service:

Commissioner Sarno lead a discussion about Bishop Guertin High School having a day of service on Wednesday November 5th from 9:30am to 1:30pm. Groups of 16 seniors will participate. There was a question of whether to use them at Terrell. It will have to be finalized at a later meeting.

Lovewell Pond Burning Bush and Turtle Project at Fields Grove:

Commissioner Sarno lead a discussion about, Shanna Demers, Rivier University ecology class will revisit Lovewell Pond on November 21st to continue to work on the burning bush.

Shanna is also taking over doing the turtle project at Fields Grove, along Salmon Brook. She will be doing a fall session and invited the commission for either Thursday the 11th or the 18th of September. The commission agreed that the 18th will be the best date, details to follow.

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT THE INVASIVE SPECIES OVERWHELMING JOYCE PARK AND POSSIBLY HAVING THE FRESHMAN AT THIS SITE.

Upcoming Dates and Locations:

- September 11th 5:30pm site walk
- September 18th Turtle project, Fields Grove
- September 20th Joyce park
- November 21st Lovewell

DISCUSSION ENSUED ABOUT THE JOYCE PARK CLEANUP AND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE.

Deer Stands:

Commissioner Sarno lead a discussion about several attempts to contact Fish and Game regarding illegal deer stands on commission properties, but no response has been received. Attempts were also made to contact the state level, regional officer, and local conservation officer, but calls have not yet been returned.

H. Committee Reports

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

NCC

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MOTION to adjourn by Commissioner Widhu at 8:33 PM

SECONDED by Commissioner Carruth

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting notes taken by Nichole Wilkins