

Woodbury Conservation Commission (WCC) Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2026

Present: Sara Hedrick; Chad Wohlers; Paul Council; Michael Gray; Natalya Zahn; Libby Case

Agenda Items – Town Forest Plan; Association of Vermont Conservation Commissions (AVCC) request for list of conserved land in Woodbury; Phragmites; Peregrine Update; Cranberry Meadow Sign; Speaker Series; Black Ash Observation

Approval of 06.18.2026 WCC Meeting Minutes - Minutes are approved.

Peregrine Update – Michael shared that it was a confusing year for peregrine observation. Both sites that initially had peregrines nesting, failed, and there seems to be little presence of peregrines in the area. that have data bases of conserved land

AVCC Request – AVCC requested that the WCC provide a listing of land in Woodbury that had conservation easements. Sara took up this task and shared her search results. Sara started with the list WCC members came up with of town owned parcels and other private parcels they were aware of. Sara then searched the data bases of several other organizations that have data on conserved land, such as the Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation and the Vermont Natural Resources Council. Her research turned up several parcels that are conserved in Woodbury and also shed light on town owned parcels that had been thought to have conservation easements but do not. Sara also shared that a large parcel of E.B. Hyde land in Woodbury had recently acquired a conservation easement. From Sara's work, it appears all land in Woodbury with conservation easements have been accounted for.

Phragmite Control – The WCC briefly reviewed the discussion with Colleen Bloom and Noreen Bryant at the previous June meeting when they met with the WCC and shared their work in Calais attempting to control the spread of phragmites. Work by Annie Dalton at Nichols Pond also was mentioned. The WCC feels it would be good to begin documenting and creating a map of sites in Woodbury where phragmites are present.

WCC Sponsored Speaker Series – Annie Dalton is mentioned as a possible speaker. She has presented her work with phragmites control to the state's Lakes and Ponds Association and gave a presentation in Hardwick last year. Natalya mentions that Ethan Tapper, author of "How to Love a Forest" and a recently published second book, "The Forest Year: Finding Hope in a World Worth Saving" will be speaking at the Jeudevine Library in Hardwick on October 7th, as part of a book tour for "The Forest Year".

Town Forest Management Plan – Paul shares that the town forest management plan is close to being completed. Paul also requested a visit to the town forest from Emily sometime in the fall to begin choosing possible patch cut sites. The WCC discusses briefly with Natalya the logger she knows of who uses horses as a potential person to do the patch cuts.

Cranberry Meadow Wetland Sign – Kiley has sent the WCC versions of his revision of the wetland map. The WCC reviews the revisions and chooses the boundary line graphic they prefer and the acknowledgement text for the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board.

Black Ash Observation – Paul had noticed a die off of black ash on his land and had a state forest pathologist-Chloe Sardonis - come to inspect the trees. She confirmed at least six black ash trees had succumbed to the Emerald Ash Borer. This was the first confirmed case in Woodbury. Chloe told Paul the black ash are usually the first species of ash to die off in an area infested with the EMB.

