

Woodbury Conservation Commission (WCC) Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2026

Present: Paul Council; Libby Case; Chad Wohlers; Jack Travelstead; Kiley Briggs; Sara Hedrick; Michael Gray

Agenda Items – Approval of 02.15.2026 meetings minutes;

Woodbury Town Forest - with Emily Sayers, Lamoille County area Forester

Cranberry Meadow Wetland Sign;

Nichols Ledge/Peregrines

Woodbury Town Forest – Forestry Plan: Emily Sayers, Lamoille County area forester with the Dept. of Forest, Parks and Recreation, presented a draft plan for Woodbury's Town Forest. Emily expressed concern that the town forest's boundary lines may not be correct. Sara offered to help with a new survey using her GIS analyst work experience. Emily shared that the town forest was of "mixed wood" and overstocked (too many trees) from a timber management perspective. The WCC shares that harvestable timber is not the management focus of the forest but instead a recreational/educational focus has long been advocated by the WCC. Emily also shared she found no invasive plants in the forest itself but mentioned wild chervil does exist along Town Farm Road. She did find an invasive fungus among the beeches – called beech leaf disease - that is now killing the beech trees.

Within her draft plan, Emily has organized the forest into two stands; both stands have fairly good soils. Stand 2 is primarily made up of sugar maples; she suggests this stand be managed as old growth. Stand 1 is in need of help. Emily suggests Stand 1 would benefit from patch cuts and the replanting of trees of various types. Emily is willing to help plan for this project. She also shares a number of articles for reference with the WCC's plans for management and will provide the links to those texts for the WCC.

Next steps for the WCC regarding the town forest are the property line of the forest; following up with Emily concerning the patch cuts for Stand 1 and continuing to work on the town forest management plan.

Cranberry Meadow Wetland Sign: Kiley shares a larger draft print of the sign. The WCC reviews and discusses the sign. Sara suggests several visual changes. Kiley will rework and present a new draft at the next meeting.

Nichols Ledge: The increased human traffic to Nichols Ledge over the last few years, fueled by postings on social media sites, has been a concern of the WCC, especially regarding the nesting peregrines. Recently ownership of the ledge, as recorded in the town records, has changed hands though still remaining in the same family. Michael spoke with the listed owner about the increased human traffic at the ledge and the concern for the peregrines that nest each year on the ledge. The owner stated the family has long supported the ledge trail closures during peregrine nesting and is aware of the increased traffic to the ledge. He stated that his family has long held a "don't allow, don't disallow" approach to visitors being on the property. He stated that the ledge property has been owned by his family for over a 100 years and with a younger generation interested in the ledge there are no plans to sell the property.

Peregrine Update: Michael reports the peregrines may not be nesting on Nichols Ledge this year but appear to have chosen another location in Woodbury. Michael will be visiting this new site to confirm that the peregrines will be nesting there. He has informed the property owners of the new site and has permission to be on their property for monitoring. Though shared with the WCC, Michael is reluctant to reveal the site to the public at this point.

