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COLEBROOK TOWN CLERK

COLEBROOK CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes dated July 8, 2025

Colebrook Town Hall Land Use Office

Members present: Joyce Hemingson, Edna Travia, Linda Bickford, Kim Janak

Duncan Wilber (alt)

Absent: Shayne Young

-Joyce called meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

-Motion to approve April 8, 2025 meeting minutes made by Linda, Edna 2nd. (4- for, 1 abstain). Minutes approved

-Office reports:

- Cooper Trail- Kim had to postpone tree service companies to a later date for a proposal of removing spikey tree from trail. Duncan mentioned to be sure to ask for a certificate of liability. Duncan suggested Involving six grade students as an educational, walking trail and point out invasives with pictures so they in turn might educate families at home.
- Pollinator Garden- Joyce mentioned that nearby mugwort and Japanese knotweed are an issue. Joyce cut Japanese knotweed & piled. Duncan suggested steel plates laid down for several weeks as this method clears and kills without regrowth,
- Natural Resources Inventory: Selectmen temporarily endorsed the report because STEAP grants depend on this town report. The Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing (TBA)
- Japanese Knotweed collaboration- Representatives from the towns of Winsted, New Hartford, Norfolk, Barkhamsted, Colebrook have been meeting to discuss ways to combat this invasive plant. The Northwest Conservation District is offering a free informative workshop on July 29 at the Winchester Public Works Garage for selectmen, Public Works Department personnel and the conservation commission chairs from the five towns to learn more about controlling Japanese Knotweed. The Conservation Commission will be documenting and mapping Japanese knotweed on state roads in Colebrook using the free "Epicollect5" phone app. Steve Geddes of Connecticut DOT has agreed to spray the plants identified in late summer/early fall before seed set. He will be spraying plants along state roads in neighboring towns at no cost to the towns.

Old Business:

- Application for 2025 membership in the CT Association of Conservation & Inland Wetland Commissions, was submitted to the town for approval. Cost is \$65.
- Pisgah Mountain Road- Discussion of April 8, 2025 maintenance plan from First Selectmen Brad Bremer. Before the October Town Meeting to determine whether to keep the road open or closed to traffic, the commission will assess the road to pinpoint key areas of concern and remediation. Joyce to discuss the April plan with the First Selectmen and determine what items were implemented thus far.

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- Beaver Pond Walk- The June CT Trails Day walk was canceled due to inclement weather. Joyce will inquire with USACE management to reschedule an informative scenic walk for October.
- Wild parsnip- Joyce contacted some local landowners about this invasive problem on their properties and suggested how to keep it from multiplying. She removed flowers

their properties and suggested how to keep it from multiplying. She removed flower heads along sections of Rt. 183 and Rt. 182.

New Business:

- Colebrook Fair: Joyce and Kim will create posters about invasive plants and how to remove them. They will pull pertinent highlights from the Natural Resources Inventory to highlight for information on the table. Commission members will decide on times to rotate hosting booth during the fair.

Public Forum: n/a

Member Forum: n/a

Adjournment: Joyce called to adjourn at 8:51, Linda 2nd.

Next meeting: October 14, 2025 at 7 p.m.



TOWN OF COLEBROOK

Pisgah Mountain Road 2025 Maintenance Plan

April 8, 2025

1. Remove dead ash trees (approximately 12)
2. Clean 10 existing cross culverts (inlets/outlets)
3. Take all debris off site
4. Follow T2 recommendations (see attached) to avoid gouging of the shoulders and disturbing vegetation
5. Cover large stone gravel with $\frac{3}{4}$ " process gravel / native stone (approx. 140 yards) (estimated cost \$2,800) – after July 1 (new fiscal year)
6. Replace two cross culverts and add two more cross culverts at point of longest runs (estimated cost \$2,000) – after July 1 (new fiscal year)
7. Host a public informational meeting with Jason Hughes of the T2 Center on May 21st to discuss their recommendation to close the road to vehicles year-round and use Pisgah Mountain Road as a recreational trail (and pursue relevant grant funding for maintenance, if adopted)

Colebrook's Conservation Commission Chair, Joyce Hemingson, requested a review of Pisgah Mountain Road on behalf of the Conservation Commission.

Observations

Pisgah Mountain Road is a public, unimproved local roadway approximately 1.1 miles long which runs along Center Brook. It was designated a scenic road in 1989 and as such the Town cannot pave it or widen the travel portion of the road. It does still require maintenance to keep it in safe condition. The roadway is closed during the winter months, once the first snowstorm occurs.

The roadway carries very little vehicular traffic on it, with the average being 2-3 vehicles per day. Many days there are no vehicles on the roadway at all. There are, however, many people who use the roadway to walk, bike and in the winter, enjoy recreational activities such as snowshoeing.

Review of the road showed that maintenance activities have widened sections of the travel portion and have disturbed, and in some areas destroyed, vegetation including hepaticas and other spring wildflowers that had been growing there for decades, according to the Conservation Commission. See photos below.

