

TOWN OF LEVERETT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION'S MEETING MINUTES
August 03, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Leverett Town Hall

Present: Joan Deely, David Powicki, Seth Heminway, Bill Corwin, Pete Sylvan

Absent: Sarah Manteiga

Attendees: Abby Lamborn, Marjorie McGinnis, Tom Hankinson, Jed Proujansky, Richard Nathhorst, Silas Ball, Richard Lawrence, Chris Stoddard, Ben Eddy, Maureen Ippolito, Julie Marlow, Pat Duffy, Stephen Nagy, Gerald McFarland.

1. **Open Meeting:** Acting Chair Deely called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
 - a. **Record Attendance:** Conservation Agent Lamborn recorded attendance
2. **Public Comment:** Acting Chair Deely explained the purpose of the Commission and gave guidelines for public participation.
3. **Public Hearing – Notice of Intent – 200-0210: Town of Leverett:**

Chris Stoddard of Stoddard Engineering presented the proposed drivable trail. He explained that a bridge would be built over an intermittent stream instead of using a culvert to reduce possible impacts, and went over comments from the DEP, including a note that the Natural Heritage Program had not replied so the hearing would need to remain open. C Stoddard also explained that the location of the proposed turnout area had been questioned by the DEP and that the Fire Department deemed it unnecessary due to the length of the trail. He outlined the proposed erosion controls to be used during and after construction.

The Commission discussed specifics of the trail, including the bridge, parking, and gate with C Stoddard. One of the applicants, Tom Hankinson, explained that parking had not yet been fully considered and they are sensitive to minimizing the impact.

Stephen Nagy, resident of Leverett, requested that an email that was shared with the Commission and applicant be made available to the audience. Town Administrator McGinnis made copies and distributed them.

Richard Lawrence, an abutter, commented that the process was an exercise in futility and that the Commission had already made their decisions. He voiced concerns on whether or not there would be a gate, wildlife protections, and the disturbance to the wetland, noting that it is a wet area.

Maureen Ippolito, non-resident of Leverett, requested a regulatory definition, guidance, or standard for the classification of a drivable trail as well as how the classification was determined. They also requested information regarding Stormwater Management Standards and the classification of an intermittent stream. The applicant provided no comments. C Stoddard and DP clarified that the standards for an intermittent stream that was being referred to only applied to mapped streams, which was not the case. C Stoddard also commented that he consulted a representative of MassDEP regarding the Stormwater Management Standards and it would have been more damaging to the area to go that route.

Gerald McFarland, resident of Leverett, questioned how deeply the Commission looked into the ecology of the area. JD commented that a trusted expert, Ralph Tiner, delineated the site and explained the process for the Natural Heritage Program as it relates to endangered species in the area.

The Commission discussed the need for clarity in regards to the gate, parking, and seasonal nature of the trail.

Jed Proujansky, an applicant, commented on the concept of the trail being for maintenance and accessibility access, with the gate being open at specific times, potentially to be determined by the Conservation Commission at a future date. T Hankinson added that they needed to get the application to this point to know how to proceed.

Pat Duffy, another applicant, spoke on improving access, welcoming advice on the gate, the bridge versus culvert impacts, the land being dry in a site visit, and remaining refuse that could be cleaned as a result.

G McFarland noted that the water that feeds the area comes from his land and that he could not think of a time when it was dry.

Silas Ball requested to understand the procedure, voicing that he would like answers to questions posed earlier. DP clarified that the Board would not vote on the application until a future meeting and that questions could be answered at the next meeting. S Ball requested that they be publicly answered.

DP made a motion to continue the hearing. Seconded by SH. Motion passes 5-0-0.

4. Board Discussion

a. OOO – 200-0916: Friends of Leverett Pond:

The Commission reviewed the report from OnPoint Aquatic Consulting LLC.

b. Parcel #3-0-12C: Peter Brown Site Visit:

The Commission decided that they would conduct a site visit on August 21.

c. ELM Footbridge:

SH provided an update on the proposed repair of the East Leverett Meadow Bridge. DP asked about replacing the cribbing, and SH stated that they would likely reinforce the existing cribbing with stones. PS noted that a hazardous tree would be taken down, and SH confirmed that the property owners on the other side would be amenable to allowing people access to the property to handle the tree. The Commission discussed mitigating impacts of the tree and looking into replacing the cribbing. It was decided that SH, AL, and Greg Tuzzolo would meet to discuss next steps.

d. 42 Shutesbury Road – Pond Leveler Repair:

JD updated the Board that the pond leveler had been repaired and the Commission had paid the bill for the work. The Board discussed billing the property owner and ultimately decided to send a letter letting them know that the repair happened and to let the new owners know about the beavers and the device.

e. Correct OOC - 200-0208:

AL explained the clerical corrections that needed to be made to OOC - 200-0208.

5. Administrative Matters

a. Approval of minutes: 6/1/2026, 7/6/2026:

It was noted that there was a typo in the June 1, 2026 minutes.

JD made a motion to approve the minutes from June 1 2026 with the correction. Seconded by DP. Motion passes 5-0-0.

SH made a motion to approve the minutes from July 6, 2026. Seconded by BC. Motion passes 4-0-1. DP abstained due to being absent at the July 6, 2026 meeting.

b. Scheduling Regular Site Visits:

AL presented the results from the poll for conducting site visits. The Commission decided to try the Tuesday and Saturday time slots on the second and fourth weeks of the month as needed.

c. Paid Invoices:

AL explained the invoices that had been paid over the month.

6. Meeting Wrap-up

a. Known agenda items for the September meeting:

1. ELM Bridge RDA
2. Hicks Botta Land Donation
3. Drivable Trail
4. Tree Removal RDAs
5. Potentially Friends of Leverett Pond

b. September meeting date: Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the Board will be meeting on 09/14/2026.

7. Executive Session: to discuss access across 101 Shutesbury Road (Evans-Marlowe) to the Gordon King Life Estate property (Leverett Conservation Commission).

- **Purpose of Executive Session: (3) Exception to the Open Meeting Law (MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.**

- **The Commission will not return to Open Meeting after the Executive Session.**

JD moved the Board to enter into Executive Session to discuss access across 101 Shutesbury Road (Evans-Marlowe) to the Gordon King Life Estate property (Leverett Conservation Commission).

Purpose of Executive Session: (3) Exception to the Open Meeting Law (MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)):

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The Commission will not return to Open Meeting after the Executive Session. Seconded by DP. Roll Call

Vote: PS - Aye, BC - Aye, DP - Aye, JD - Aye, SH - Aye. Motion passes 5-0-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Supporting Documents:

NOI - 200-0210 - DEP Document and Engineering Document

King Meadow Drivable Trail Comments

OnPoint Aquatic Consulting, LLC - 2026 Macrophyte Survey of Leverett Pond, Leverett, MA

Long Plain Road Site Visit Document

June 1, 2026 Minutes

July 6, 2026 Minutes

Regular Site Visit Scheduling Document