

Brentwood Conservation Commission

July 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Commission members present were Chair Rebecca Dunham, Secretary Michelle Siudut, Lise McNaughton, Rob Wofchuck, BOS representative Paul Kleinman; alternates Doug Cowie, Andy LaRoche, Heather Dudley-Tatman.

Dunham called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Motion by McNaughton, seconded by Siudut to allow Dudley-Tatman and Cowie to be voting members; passed 7-0.

Minutes

Motion by Cowie, seconded by McNaughton to approve the May meeting minutes as amended; motion passed 5-0-2.

Reimbursements

Dunham had copies made of the 1987 survey for Nooney-Munger for \$15.66. Motion by Dudley-Tatman, seconded by Wofchuck to reimburse Dunham; passed 7-0.

Sig Sauer

Nick Lorenz from Jones & Beach Engineers presented a plan for modifications on the southwest side of the 50 yard indoor range building. SigSauer has plans to expand other areas of the property, but cannot do so until an Alteration of Terrain (AoT) permit is issued from NHF&G.

The site is currently just gravel. The gravel will be removed and replaced with drip edge and filtration. The impact area equates to 8000 sq ft, which would include a new culvert, if necessary. All of the modifications are in the wetland buffer (per most current regulation); not in the wetland. Endangered species require 75' buffer rather than 100' buffer.

DES and F&G have approved. The plan will be presented to the planning board next week.

Motion by Wofchuck, seconded by Cowie to accept the plan without objections; 6-0-1.

Old Business

- a. Munger/Nooney Property. We have received approval for the bond from the bond bank; we should receive notice of the interest rate this month. The payment schedule will be \$15,000 per year. Warranty deed needs to be drafted, which must include reference that the land is being purchased for conservation. A closing date will need to be scheduled, hopefully in Sept/Oct. Dunham suggests we have a plan to thank/recognize the sellers in some manner. Becky contacted 2 survey companies for estimates to determine where the markers are and replace markers if necessary. One bid came in from Northum. Price ranges from \$4800 - \$7300, based on hourly rate; price good til end of year. They are willing to work with us on price, as needed. The Commission should walk the property first to see if we can find the markers. Bob Stephens offered to do it; Bruce Stevens offered to go with him. We may be eligible for a grant to do clean-up work or to help pay for the survey. There is a F&G grant for mowing at \$120/acre, or bush hogging at \$1000/acre. Wofchuck suggested we

come up with plan for the property before making other determinations of treatment. Property is very overgrown at this time. There is unsafe dock in the manmade pond which will need to be removed once the town takes ownership (perhaps ask Wayne Robinson to take care of this).

Dudley-Tatman suggested getting an estimate for management plans for both this property and the Stevens property, which should be do for a plan revision.

- b. Stewardship Fund. This was suggested as a way to save money to be used for future maintenance on conserved properties or legal work in reference to easements. This could be established as a Capital Reserve Fund (which would need to be approved at Town Meeting), or as a Trust Fund. Dunham has asked Julie Avant, Trustees of the Trust Fund chair, for more information on how a Trust Fund would work; more information to follow.
- c. Fish and Game Small Grants program. Dudley-Tatman and McNaughton are working on this; to provide more brush-hogging in some areas. Grant would allow up to \$10K over a 10 year period, with not more than \$4K ea year. Cycle just opened in June for this grant. Bob Magnusson mowed the upper field entirely, and continues to mow trails monthly; Breen mowed the lower field. Maintaining the field will help control invasives. Bruce Stevens has taken the fence down, it just needs to be removed. Stevens will continue to work on land clearing.
- d. August meeting speaker: Anna Boudreau will present Easements 101 at our meeting on August 13. The recommendation is a 30 minute talk covering easement basics, current hot topics, differences in available funding opportunities. The public is welcome and property owners who may be considering putting their land in easement will be invited.

e. Open Space Committee

New Business

- a. 2025 budget update and 2026 budget. YTD expenditure report was distributed; we currently have 78% of our annual budget remaining. Wofchuck asked how much we had used from the Conservation Fund; would we want to replenish that? Previously, there was a line (Annual Appropriation) in the ConCom budget that was used to replenish the Conservation Fund. Dunham was unsure what remains in that fund. Dunham suggested we consider increasing the target amount of that fund. Wofchuck noted that the Professional Services line has not been fully spent; and suggested asking Anna Boudreau to help develop a management plan for the Munger/Nooney property.
- b. The deadline for statements of interest was Jul 1. There are two positions open, and one position (Dunham) up for appointment. Heather Dudley-Tatman and Jeff Dvorak have applied for 3yr full member status; Dunham has applied for a 1yr (the 1yr is to realign appointments to be on alternating schedule) appointment. No applications for alternates were received; if Dudley-Tatman becomes full member, there will be two openings for alternates. Statements will be presented to BOS next Tuesday for their approval. Committees are encouraged to be present at the meeting (Dunham cannot be present, but will send a letter to Hansen that we

support the applicants); applicants are welcome to come and speak on their own behalf.
A moment of thanks was extended to Doug Cowie for his many, many, many years of service.

- c. Dunham announced she will step down as Chair in August, but will stay on as member. She is willing to assist in the transition of a new Chair. The Committee thanked Dunham with a round of applause, for the incredible work that has been accomplished under her leadership.
- d. Dunham will be stepping down from the Open Space Committee. Remaining committee members are Dudley-Tatman, McNaughton, Wofchuck, Jeff Dvorak, and Robin Wrighton.

Chris Gnip was present in the audience; suggested he apply to be an alternate.

The Committee thanked Dunham with a round of applause, for the incredible work that has been accomplished under her leadership.

Next Meetings

*Conservation Commission - Wednesday, August 13 at 6:30 pm at Town Office, with Anna Boudreau as guest speaker

*Open Space Committee - as needed

Motion by Wofchuk, seconded by Dudley-Tatman to go into non-public at 7:36 pm for RSA 91-A:3, II(d) tominutes from previous non-public.

Siudut -aye, Wofchuck -aye, Dudley-Tatman -aye, Cowie -aye, Kleinman -aye, McNaughton -aye, Dunham -aye.

Motion by Dudley-Tatman, second by McNaughton, to approve the non-public minutes of June 11, 2025; passed 5-0-2

Motion by McNaughton, seconded by Wofchuck, to seal the non-public minutes of June 11, 2025; passed 7-0.

Motion by Dudley-Tatman; seconded by Kleinman to adjourn; meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Siudut, Secretary