

## Minutes

### Brookfield Conservation Commission Meeting

April 20, 2026

7:00 pm Regular meeting at Brookfield Town Office/Library:

In attendance: Jon Binhammer, Sue Shea (via Zoom), Starr Strong, Lindsey Pett, Marcella Dent

1. Meeting call to order: 7:07pm
2. Review Agenda
3. Public Comment: None
4. Approval of Minutes of the March meeting: Approved unanimously
5. Planning Commission update: Sue provided some updates related to the zoning bylaws development at the Planning Commission. Confirmed the development of the zoning bylaws will be a multi-year effort.
6. Act 181 discussion: Considered the conversations happening at the State House related to Act 250 and Act 181 reforms, specifically Tier 3 and the road rule. Discussed how that conversation might impact conversations happening locally with respect to conservation protections.
7. Legal Trails in Brookfield?: Looked at the Town Highway map (2025) and identified four mapped legal trails, all under 1 mile in length. Of note, one connects to a road near that cuts through the Brookfield Town Forest.
8. Project updates:
  - a. Sunset Brook Natural Area management plan, etc.: A truck of sand (16 yards) costs approximately \$480. Discussion of potential permit needs.
  - b. Survey of vernal pools: Thank you Lindsey for the great map! Plan to bring the map to the next meeting and mark vernal pools that we know about. Vermont Center for Ecostudies has vernal pool education materials regarding identifying vernal pools.

c. Public events – thanks to Starr and Steve. Payments?: Starr paid the church, will look to see if we have money to reimburse. Honorarium for VCE (\$100, November minutes). Starr will look into making this payment!

d. I-89 underpass – Agreement revised: Jon B. described progress here with the legal agreements to prove separation of the two parcels and removal of the fence; sounds like all the pieces are nearly in place to remove the fence.

#### 9. New Business:

- Lindsey will give a presentation on invertebrates (beginning of June timeframe; starting from the Sunset Brook Natural Area);

- Jon B. can give a walking presentation about reading the forested landscape (July; maybe at Moon Mountain);

- Wildflower walk? Maybe we wait until next year. Twin Pond Road? Witts Bridge Road?;

- Kayak trip at Baker's Pond (August)

#### 10. Adjourn – Next meeting May 18, 2026.