

Minutes

Brookfield Conservation Commission Meeting

July 20, 2026

In attendance: Sue Shea, Starr Strong, Jon Jickling, Marcella Dent, Lindsey Pett, Jon Binhammer

1. Call to order - any natural history items to share? - bobcats, ducks, a bittern, woodchuck in the library, common egret, nuisance bears and aquatic insects.
2. Review Agenda - no changes
3. Public Comment - no public comment
4. Approval of Minutes of the June meeting - approved unanimously
5. Planning Commission update - discussion of enforcement of town ordinances, continuing work on draft town zoning - working on Article 4, setbacks from water and roads. BCC may want to participate in discussions of these topics.
6. Project updates:
 - a. Sunset Brook Natural Area management plan, etc. - drafted by Jon B. Needs a map and needs context. Maybe remove the turtle idea from the general section, but have a section for individual actions. State reason for protecting the property - the impact on animals by protecting the resource. More practical. Resources and risks. Lindsey has a student who will be doing ecological inventory for the site this fall. Wait until inventory is complete to finish plan.
 - b. Survey of vernal pools - Keeler's pools - 5 in total, 2 of them are large. They would be happy to take us out there. Perhaps August 1 or 3. Stay tuned.
 - c. Public events Aquatic ecology with Lindsey - August 16 10:30 am meet at Post Office. Lindsey will put on FPF.
 - d. I-89 underpass - Marcella will ask Faith about status.
7. New Business:
 - a. Salt reduction - Discussion of where salt is used, how it is stored. Jon J. willing to gather info and potentially broach the topic with the Selectboard.

- b. Hippo Park - Would BCC be interested in being Commissioner of Park? No - the park was not thought to be central to BCC's mission.
- c. Allis State Park - Buckthorn control around the campground - an incipient population? No interest expressed by Commissioners - "the State should do invasive control on their land".

Action items: Sue will contact Keelers. Jon J. will investigate salt issue further. Jon B. will do a revised draft of the mgmt plan, and wait for ecological inventory for final plan draft.

8. Adjourn – We typically take the month of August off. Next meeting September 21, 2026.