

Sharon Conservation Commission

May 27, 2025

Minutes

On Tuesday May 27, 2025, a regular meeting of the Sharon Conservation Commission was held at the Sharon Meeting House on Route 123 in Sharon, New Hampshire at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Anne Fischer, Anne Booth, Megan Cahill, and Beth Fernald.

Robert Hauser was also in attendance.

Minutes

The April minutes were approved.

Financial

Fund Balances as of 4/30/2025:

Town Forest Fund	Interest \$ 69.76	Balance \$ 85,364.81
Conservation Fund	Interest \$ 114.19	Balance \$ 139,742.62

Conservation Easements

Anne Booth spoke with Anne McBride a Monadnock Conservancy who said we do not need to apply for a grant in 2025 as the easement process will not be underway.

Moose Plate Grant:

Tabled until 2026.

Town Cleanup

Seven families signed in for the town-wide Earth Day cleanup.

Town Forest

Jeff Littleton and Steven Lamonde shared insights from the draft inventory report. The discussion included finding out what sort of carbon credits the town can get (or sell) for the carbon sequestered in the forest.

We asked them what the difference is between the patch cuts and the regenerative growth that's occurring beneath the dying Hemlock canopy, and they said the new growth under Hemlocks will grow but it won't be diverse like the patch cut. There won't be blueberries or viburnum, for example. The Hemlock area will stay very acidic and will feed woodpeckers, bats and chickadees and other birds.

Asked how we can make the forest more accessible, they said we can put up information boards, interpretive signage, a kiosk with maps showing wildlife habitat, looper damage areas, patch cut area and describing the importance of Meadow Brook. What should we be doing to maintain the forest: Manage invasives, especially buckthorn along Meadow Brook. Suggested calling in Mike Gagnon to have him come look. He also does workshops on invasives and might help with a volunteer operation. Also recommended: Do more patch cuts. Take photos of how forest changes over time.

What species should we encourage: turtles that are species of concern. Protect them. Wetland invertebrates. Canada Warbler. Wide-ranging mammals. Put up cameras to understand wildlife movement. Encourage beavers so they maintain the wetlands. Do strategic cuts to offer hardwood food supply—recommended girdling them or felling them (leaving tops).

Asked what is meant in report by “raised walkways”: Use boards or stepping stones. Suggested cutting some Hemlock, sawing boards in half.

How long is the forest boundary?: Nine miles.

They suggest an ecological monitoring program that could include bird surveys done every five years.

Vernal pool exploration: count egg masses.

iNaturalist project could reveal FAQs about Forest.

Forever wild designation: The draft has maps that show where we should leave alone, “hands-off management.” It would only be touched for “ecological restoration.”

When we do cuts in the future, follow best practices around Meadow Brook. Leave 100 feet of no-cut.

Doing patch cuts offers a variety of ages. We can manage for biodiversity, which creates a more resilient forest.

Leave 50 feet untouched around vernal pools because we should maintain the canopy cover to protect the pools.

Also discussed was giving a presentation to the public.

Swearing in

Anne F. reminded members that they must be sworn in. Anne Booth and Megan need to be sworn in. Belinda’s and Beth’s terms run through this year.

**Next regular meeting will be held at the Sharon Meeting House
Route 123 Sharon, New Hampshire at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday June 24, 2025.**