



Waitsfield Conservation Commission Meeting

Minutes

May 20, 2026

Members Present: James Donaldson, Bruno Grimaldi, Ted Joslin Leo Laferriere, Curt Lindberg, Chris Loomis, Gail O'Keefe

Members Absent: Phil Huffman

Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order by Curt at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held in person at the Town Offices and remotely via Zoom.

1. Welcome, Agenda Review

No changes were made to the agenda.

2. Public Input

No members of the public asked for time to speak.

3. Review/Approve minutes

The minutes of April 15, 2026 were approved.

4. Rebecca Diehl – Membership Response

Curt reported that Rebecca is reluctant to join the CC at this time due to work and family commitments, but that she may be interested in working on ad hoc projects. Curt also noted that Kari Dolan may be interested in rejoining; he will invite her to an upcoming meeting.

5. Spring Trail Work and Phase 2 Trail Build

James noted that the new trail markers have arrived. He reported that Apex Trailworks will be ready to begin trail construction in early June; he will check that the flagging is still in place for the new routes. James will also address the winter damage that is likely to need attention along the trails, and will be outlining a plan to remove older trails markers and re-tag the trails with new color schemes. It was agreed that yellow should remain the color for marking main trails.

6. Discussions with Friends of the Mad River Board and Land Trust Planning

Curt provided an update on the conservation groups' meeting with the FMR Board, explaining that the Board has expressed interest in collaborating to find a structure for

invasive/restoration work, but that they do not see FMR as a vehicle for formation of a local land trust. They would like to stay involved in related planning efforts, so will be attending a June 4 meeting with community members, State-level parties, and representatives of various organizations.

7. Farley Park Opening Event Highlights

Curt reported that this was a well-attended event, with those present expressing their pleasure with the Park and its development. He noted that Phil had distributed the latest design schematic, and that questions could either be directed to Phil, or to Curt if there is anything that should be placed on an upcoming agenda.

8. Financial Matters

Bruno provided updated financials, noting that there is \$2,127.50 left in the current fiscal year's general budget, which if not spent by the end of June will no longer be available. He indicated that the \$50 annual membership for AVCC is due, and James noted that some funds could be used to purchase nails for installation of the new trail markers. Gail asked if some funds might be used to pay a deposit for consultant fees for the Management Plan work; Chris indicated that an agreement would not be finalized in time for such a payment in June.

Funding Requests for CRV and Wetland Educational Efforts – There was some discussion regarding support for the CRV Attitude of Gratitude video, which had been created using MRP and other funds, and for which Misha Golfman is currently seeking financial support. Some reservations were expressed regarding a practice of spending before soliciting, but there was agreement that the expenditure is beneficial.

Curt suggested that some funds might purchase trees for planting at the knotweed smother area at Lareau; Gail and he offered to take care of related logistics.

MOTION: *Chris moved to provide \$500 to the Attitude of Gratitude project, using current year operating funds. The motion was seconded by Gail, and passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *James moved to provide \$500 to MRP for wetlands boardwalk educational panels, using current year operating funds. The motion was seconded by Chris, and passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *Chris moved to authorize the Treasurer to pay AVCC dues in the amount of \$50, using current year operating funds. The motion was seconded by James, and passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *James moved to provide \$1000 for tree planting at Lareau as part of knotweed eradication restoration efforts, using current year operating funds. The motion was seconded by Bruno, and passed unanimously.*

James will order nails for attaching trail signage, and submit the related invoice.

9. Roundtable

No matters for discussion were raised at this point.

10. Other Business

- Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on June 17, 2026.
- EAB Plan update – Leo outlined that he, Curt, Brian Shupe, Charlie Hosford, and York Haverkamp had written a response plan that includes background information, and recommendations for roadside treatment strategies – one for Main Street and one for other roads in Town. The draft had been sent to Joanne Garton and Caitlin Cusack for comments; feedback has been received from Joanne. Leo spoke of letting natural selection serve to allow the genetic survivors remain, and not using insecticide. This strategy would also include removing infested roadside trees for safety reasons. Gail asked about the potential for EAB to die off once their food source diminishes, as well as the possibility of fertilization of trees as a method to strengthen them against the insect; Leo has seen no research on either of these. Leo explained that the plan is to be presented to the Selectboard for their review in setting related policy; Curt noted that one element of the plan is for the CC to develop a plan for management of EAB in Town forests; Chris spoke of the Tree Warden needing to have a plan in place to follow. There was agreement that it is likely best to watch and wait at this point.
- Other – Chris reported that Michael Brown is potentially interested in the Management Plan consulting work.

11. Executive Session

MOTION: *A motion to enter Executive Session passed unanimously.*

The meeting entered Executive Session at 7:26 pm and returned to open session at 8:04 pm. No further action was taken.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Chamberlin, Recording Secretary