

Charlemont Conservation Committee
May 14th, 2026, 7:00 PM
Via conference call and in person, Town Hall
Meeting Minutes

Members Participating: Thorne Palmer, Clay Herbert, Scott Randall, Andrea Santos, Bill Harker

Thorne Palmer opened the meeting at 7:01 PM

7:00 Pm - Public Hearing to review RDA. Thomas Keough on behalf of DCR / Mohawk Trail State Forest; activity consists of routine campground maintenance within the Upper and Lower Campground areas of Camp Mohawk including installation of a wooden utility pole for cellular signal booster.

Maintenance Projects at Mohawk State Forest Campground

Activities include roadway repairs, grinding tree stumps near roads, and filling washed-out gravel paths at individual campsites. Stump grinding is preferred over removal to avoid disturbing roots near wetlands.

The natural stone wall near the man-made swimming area, which has partially collapsed, will be repointed. Cracks in the adjacent concrete wall will be filled. This work will be done in dry conditions before the area is filled for the swimming season.

A new cellular pole will be installed next to a roadway to improve spotty cell service in the park; no ground disturbance is required.

Bill Harker made a motion to accept the proposed maintenance plan. The work does not require a formal signed negative determination, but one can be provided if needed. Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor.

Keough will inform colleagues in New York about the board's approval of the maintenance project. If a formal signed document is needed for the negative determination, it will be emailed.

Agenda item

1. Sign off on building permit for 28 Heathstage Terrace

Brief discussion regarding a building permit for 28 Heathstage Terrace that was signed off without being formally brought before the board.

The work involves a deck, and there is no water near the building location.

Scott Randall made a motion to formally accept the building permit sign off for 28 Heathstage Terrace. Bill Harker seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Informal Discussion on Local Issues

- Description: Various unrelated local events and topics were discussed.
- A person moving in on Main Street dropped their van keys down a storm drain. A magnet briefly retrieved them, but the keys fell back in and were lost.
- A potential building permit issue was noted for a new shed-like structure on Route 2A (across from Frankie Taylor's) that may have been erected without a permit. Size regulations (under 200/400 sq. ft.) and foundation requirements were discussed.
- A contractor asked about rebuilding a cabin on an existing foundation by the river; consensus was that if the entire structure is removed, it cannot be rebuilt in the same spot due to grandfathering laws.
- The high cost of fuel oil (mentioned at \$5.09/gallon) and its financial impact was briefly discussed.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 11, 2026.

Andrea Santos made a motion to adjourn at 7:40. Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor.

Documents reviewed in meeting:

The Mohawk Trail State Forest Camp Mohawk Improvements Project RDA April, 2026