

Charlemont Conservation Commission
August 13th, 2026, 7:00 PM
Via conference call and in person, Town Hall
Meeting Minutes

Members Participating: Thorne Palmer, Andrea Santos, Bill Harker, Scott Randall;
Others Participating: Kate Wilkens, Jared Whitney, Andy Cornish, Taylor Shulda, Mark Stinson, Star Atkeson, Secretary

7:00 - Notice of Intent for a drinking water well, water line, water fountain & assoc. site work at Mohawk Trail State Forest.

- Kate Wilken, EcoTec, on behalf of DCR, presented the project for Mohawk Trail State Forest. A well will be drilled near existing bathhouse and paved access drive, and a water line will be connected to the well to connect to water fountain. If the permit is granted, they will drill the well, do a pump test, test water quality and check with DEP to permit for public water source.
- Mark Stinson said adding or subtracting water to the pool requires permitting, it is an “alteration” to raise and lower water level. Kate wants approval for the well location, says the pool is a question for a lawyer. If a permit is needed, they would file for a new permit.
- They spoke about a few more of Mark Stinson’s comments issued on the Notification of Wetlands Protection Act File Number correspondence— 10.58 (4) vs 10.58 (5)
- Kate said there will be an improvement: increase sapling, 2 native shrubs. 30 square feet mitigation is proposed, a 2 to 1 improvement (well head will be 15 sq. feet). Trees being removed are on a lawn area near fire pits, there is no loss to “canopy.”
- Mark said planting of indigenous plant species in addition to the mitigation plantings would be an improvement. He suggested tree planting locations be subject to ConComm approval. DCR can walk through park, ConComm can walk after.
- Mitigation area can be a separate standalone area suitable for increase in natural buffering riverfront area.
- The Board will do a site visit, and schedule meeting in a few weeks.

Scott Randall made a motion to close the hearing. Bill Harker seconded the motion. All in favor.

Conditions:

- 1) 16 trees to be planted soon before or after the work has been completed.
Concomm and DCR choose spot, subject to ConComm review and approval.
- 2) Notification 48 hours before work starts
- 3) The 30 sq. feet of Mitigation to be done soon before or after drilling.

Thorne Palmer made a motion to accept the conditions. Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor.

Andrea Santos made a motion to approve the NOI with the conditions spoken about. Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor.

Stakes will be in ground; well driller will validate spot. Jared Whitney will tell DCR that the ConComm will come to visit.

7:30 –Request for Determination of Applicability for installation of a magic carpet ski lift at Berkshire East Ski Resort, LLC, 66 Thunder Mountain Rd.

- Andy Cornish. Berkshire East, presented the RDA to the Commission. The new carpet will be above the old carpet and start at the old lift line, closer to mountain coaster, it is all on ski trail.
- Andy confirmed the carpet would sit on pressure treated lumber railing like railroad ties.
- It is 20' from the wetland line, underbrush will be removed but not trees. There is a proposed vegetated swale, Mark said it should be defined as a stormwater swale and needs a setback, cannot have stormwater run-off to streams, regulations require a setback for a stormwater swale receiving water.
- Swale could cause a bunch of erosion. Sheet flow is fine. If there is a swale it would require an NOI.
- Mark suggested removing the vegetated swale from the plan and initialing it. If in future the site needs stormwater management, they can come back.
- A note should be made in the Determination to note the removal of the vegetated swale on the revised plan dated 8/13/2026

Thorne Palmer made a motion to accept Negative determination #3, to remove vegetative swale on the plan, revised plan is dated 8/13/2026. Bill Harker seconded the motion. All in favor.

7:45 - Request for Determination of Applicability for riparian planting along streams at Hall Tavern Farm, 1927 Route 2

Taylor Shulda, SWCA Environmental Consultants, presented an RDA for riparian planting along three brooks at Hall Tavern Farm. The project is being completed in partnership with the Massachusetts Energy Area Program and the Woodlands Partnership.

Shulda explained that the site includes an agricultural ditch, intermittent stream, and perennial stream that converge before passing through a culvert. The proposed planting area is at the edge of a hayfield, work will be done in the fall after the final hay cutting. Planting will be done by hand, with tree wraps and herbivore cages. Any invasive species encountered will be removed by hand

Mark Stinson raised concerns regarding the delineation of wetlands and noted that MassMapper/GIS mapping should not be relied upon to establish wetland boundaries. The Commission discussed whether the area could include BVW, bank, or riverfront resource areas and the importance of using appropriate plant species for wetland conditions.

Mark and the Commission determined that the proposed native planting could proceed under a Negative Determination, Category 5. Categories 2 and 3 would apply to the hand removal of invasive species if encountered. Mark said that the Category 5 determination does not authorize work within BVW or bank resource areas if such areas are present.

Andrea Santos made a motion to issue a Negative Determination under Category 5 for planting native species and Categories 2 and 3 for hand removal of invasive species. Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor.

Agenda item

1. Minutes of 6/11/2026

Scott Randall made a motion to accept the Minutes as read. Andrea Santos seconded the motion. All in favor.

2. Accept Clay Herbert's resignation from Conservation Commission

Resignation is accepted; Mark will check to see if a non-resident can be appointed.

3. Machinery on E. Hawley Road

Monte Krusz sold the property, moved the machine down with the intention to use it to clear debris, but it's not running. It is an eyesore. The unregistered vehicles law was mentioned, or the issuance of an enforcement order. If it's in a wetlands, it's a violation.

4. Woodlands Trailer Park Wetlands on MassMapper

Gravel pits are exempt; gravel pits create ponds. Phil Banks sees oil slicks on the surface under road in culvert. Mark suggested that he call the DEP emergency response or the Fire department. Thorne will call Phil and suggest he call the DEP or the FD.

5. Stagecoach Auto It was noticed that cars were moved to Brian's property, behind the house near the other stream, although on a different elevation. Thorne will call Dupree.

The Boards can do all three visits on one day.

Andrea Santos made a motion to adjourn at 9:03. Scott Randall seconded the motion. All in favor.

Documents reviewed in meeting:

- Agenda of Aug 13, 2026
- Minutes June 11, 2026
- Hall Tavern Farm RDA
- Berkshire East Magic Carpet RDA
- Mohawk Trail State Forest NOI