Town of Scarborough Conservation Commission

September 23, 2026 | 6:00 pm | Hybrid: Town Hall and via Zoom

Minutes

Present in person:

Commission: Kate Borduas, Carrick Gambell, Christine Labaree, Cathleen Miller, Abel Plaud, Crayton Silsby

Staff: Jami Fitch, Sustainability Manager; Nick Cliche, Community Services Director; Casey Cunningham, Parks Manager

Present on Zoom:

Commission: Crescie Mauer, Will Sedlack (Planning Board Liaison)

Meeting recording

Call to order

1. Meeting is called to order at 6:02 pm.
2. Cathleen offers a land acknowledgement to recognize the Wabanaki People as traditional stewards of Scarborough.
3. Kate motions to accept minutes from the 7/22/25 meeting, Abel seconds. Vote is unanimous. Motion passes.
4. The Commission decides to move Community Services waiver request to the beginning of the agenda.

Public Comment

1. None.

New Business

1. Pest Management Advisory Committee – waiver request from Community Services
   - Jami provides a reminder to the Committee that the Commission assumed the responsibilities of the Pest Management Advisory Committee in 2023. As part of that role, the Commission reviews pesticide waiver requests when needed. This is the first waiver request the Commission has had to consider since the two groups merged.
   - Nick Cliche, Community Services Director, provides an overview of the grub issues on Willey Field. Due to the extent of the damage and infestation, Community Services is requesting a 10-month waiver to implement a two-step approach to deal with the grubs, as recommended by their contractor. He explains that the field has not been treated since 2018 and notes that a waiver request is not something Community Services does lightly.
   - Community Services' contractor recommends treating with Arena insecticide in the fall and Acelepryn in the spring.
   - Application of the Arena product (fall 2026) will be targeted to affected areas. The spring treatment of Acelepryn will be a broadcast application.

- The Commission asks several questions about the products being used:
  - Have the species of grubs been identified to help understand how to address the issue?
    The landscaping contractor has identified the grubs as Japanese Beetle larvae.
  - How were the treatments chosen to balance safety and effectiveness?
    The fall application is a higher toxicity because of the current severity of the problem. The application in the spring is lower toxicity.
  - The Arena product impacts pollinators. Could application occur later in October, when plants are no longer blooming and when pollinators are less likely to be active.
    Yes, the application can be scheduled in late October.
  - Are there concerns with bioaccumulation using these products?
    Community Services staff cannot speak to bioaccumulation.
  - Are there concerns with the products getting into local waterways?
    The area where the products will be applied is well buffered. The applicator will follow State requirements to ensure products are not applied when rain is in the forecast.
  - How is the field used in the fall?
    A youth football group is currently using the field. Timing of the application will be done when the field is no longer regularly used.
  - What is the anticipated timing of the spring application?
    Community Services will try to time the spring application as early in the season as possible.
- The Commission recommends Community Services note that the pesticide application is a last resort and emphasize that the Department focuses on cultural practices and soil health to proactively minimize issues, the last application was 8 years ago, and products used are the lowest toxicity level to achieve desired outcomes. All of these actions are important components of an Integrated Pest Management approach.
- *Kate motions to approve Community Services' 10-month pesticide waiver request to address the grub infestation on Willey Field. Crescie seconds. Vote is unanimous. Motion passes.*
- The Commission thanks Community Services for their management approach and for complying with the Town's organic pest management policy.

Old Business

1. Low Impact Development (LID) Ordinance
   - Jami shares that the LID Ordinance public meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, 10/13, at 6:00 pm at the Public Safety Building. The presentation will highlight LID concepts, state requirements, and where the Town will recommend adopting enhanced standards.
   - The language will go to the Ordinance Committee in early 2027. The goal will be to adopt the standards by July 2027.
   - It will be helpful for the Commission to attend meetings with the Ordinance Committee and Town Council.
2. Community Stewardship Guide
   - Cathleen shares that the communal document is moving back into Google Docs due to challenges with people accessing the Word document. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the document so far.
   - Cathleen encourages the Commissioners to make notes within the document to help streamline work sessions.
   - Christine suggests the Commission give thought to what the end product should be. She suggests a series of fact sheets on various topics.
   - The Commission will schedule another work session outside of the regular meeting time.
   - **ACTIONS:**
     - **CATHLEEN will re-share the Google Doc.**
     - **CATHLEEN will send possible meeting dates and times to Commissioners.**

3. Planning Board
   - No projects require Conservation Commission review this month.

New Business (continued)

1. Tabling at the Election
   - The Commission discussed opportunities to have a table with information at the election on 11/3.
   - The Commission decides to pull together a sustainability bingo card to get an idea of what people do in their daily lives to help sustain Scarborough.
   - Conservation Commission suggests inviting the Sustainability Committee to share the table.
   - Suggested handouts: local volunteer opportunities, transit information, curbside composting info, etc.
   - Jami suggests using the tabling materials from the Sustaining Scarborough climate action plan outreach and engagement efforts.
   - **ACTIONS:**
     - **JAMI will pull together a schedule for tabling with 2-hour blocks**
     - **JAMI will compile the bingo card and other materials for the table**

Updates

1. Town Council
   - First reading of the Zoning Ordinance update to ban data centers was on 9/16. The issue is being referred to the Planning Board for a public hearing in October and will be back in front of the Town Council on 10/21. Second reading and vote should be on 11/4.
2. Parks and Conservation Land Board
   - No update this month.
3. Transportation Committee
   - Greater Portland Metro has launched its microtransit service. The fixed route will begin 10/4. The service is free through the end of October.
   - The Transportation Committee is reviewing MaineDOT's options for the Portland West project (formerly the Gorham Connector).
4. Sustainability Committee
   - Sustainability Committee is in the process of reviewing the *Sustaining Scarborough* Plan and identifying priority actions they would like to address.
5. Climate Action Plan
   - The draft plan is available on SustainingScarborough.org, and public comment is open. A Town Council workshop is scheduled on 10/21.

Next meeting: October 28, 2026 at 6:00 pm.
Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.