

Strafford Conservation Commission

Agenda

January 20, 2026

Strafford Town Office 7:00 PM

- Approve minutes from December 2025 meeting.
- Welcome our new members, Marty Frank, and Joanne Blais, and Margaret Romney(non-voting).
- Trails report. Mike Hebb.
- Town Summary of SCC 2025 activities. Please let Micki know of anything you want included.
- Review of our funds:
 - \$11649.82 in our reserve account. This reflects the \$6000 donation from the Alliance for Vermont Communities in 2022
 - \$3765.88 in our Whitcomb Hill fund.
 - \$2196.60 in a Conservation Trust.

We were accidentally charged \$500 for an event the Energy committee put on. Lisa will fix this. We need to keep better track of our funds, but do not need a treasurer.

- Update: Discussion of asking for a yearly budget from the town for extra expenses: speakers, river clean up, removal of trash, educational supplies for outdoor ed. Kate will write up a rough proposal.
- Micki wrote letter to ANR about wetland rules:

Wetlands Rulemaking Committee,

On behalf of the 9-person Strafford Conservation Commission, we are writing about the proposed changes to wetland regulations. But we believe we are speaking for most of us in Strafford, who live in a beautiful river-carved valley, one that has flooded many times and will continue to do so. The safety features we have that protect our homes and charming old villages is that we have been blessed with large floodplains in the valley that absorb tremendous amounts of water, releasing it slowly during floods. We have also been blessed with hills and forests full of class-two wetlands that also hold water, releasing it slowly, purifying the water as well, protecting our drinking water. These wetlands are rich with rare and unusual plants, many of which have not

yet been “discovered”. We agree that Vermont needs more affordable housing, but because of the enormous costs left in the wake of flooding, it will ultimately cost more in the long run if development is encouraged in wet places rather than in higher, dryer sites that are still close to village centers. Thank you for considering our viewpoint.

Micki Colbeck, Chair & Kate Bass, Co-chair

- Other business
- Next meeting is February 24, 2026
- Vote to adjourn