

Town of Randolph

Conservation Commission

Minutes of December 17, 2025

Members Present: Gary Newfield, Nathan Peters, and Philip Guiser

Members Excused: Jennifer Scarinza, Walter Graff, and Brandy Capozello

Public: John Martinson, Joel White, Yvonne Jenkins, Michele Cormier, Shelli Fortin, Minutes Taker

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm by Gary Newfield

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Nathan Peters, seconded by Gary Newfield, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of October 16, 2025, as presented.

Invasive Species Presentation

Joel White was in attendance to present information on invasive species. Mr. White advised that the Town had contacted him about Japanese Knotweed, especially along Durand Road.

Mr. White noted that the Upper Connecticut River Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (UCCISMA), collects information on invasive species in the Connecticut River Valley. Mr. White noted that funds may be available, since Randolph contains the Israel's River, which drains into the Connecticut River. UCCISMA's focus has been on the headwaters of the Connecticut River, but they are also looking at feeder systems. It is important to start treating for invasive species upstream, so that areas are not re-infected with flooding.

Mr. White suggested that Randolph should start with collecting data and noted that Randolph would be a good candidate for a citizen's environmental project, in which residents help to collect the data needed. Mr. White noted that there are three possibilities for programs to collect data, including iNaturalist, EDDMapS, and iMAPS. Mr. White noted that iMAPS requires a subscription and EDDMapS allows for more data to be entered, however iNaturalist is the easiest to use and is already used by the Randolph Forest Commission.

When asked how data would be retrieved, Mr. White advised that the data entered would show up as a pin on the map, and you would click on that pin for more information. Data collected could include information such as the size of the patch and whether it is close to water.

When asked how Japanese Knotweed spreads, Mr. White advised it is mainly by expansion of the root system, as 75% of the plant is underground. Parts of Japanese Knotweed can also

move to new locations, and just the knuckle on a piece of the plant can root and start a new one.

Mr. White advised that Japanese Knotweed is not the only invasive plant in NH. There are more than 50 invasive plants, and it is illegal to move them.

Mr. White discussed ways to treat Japanese Knotweed, which include tarping, which is labor intensive, and spraying with "Roundup", which interrupts the roots' ability to provide sustenance to the plant. The glyphosate is sprayed onto the leaves and absorbed into the plant's roots. Mr. White noted that in Europe they are using electricity on the roots of the plant to cook it from the inside out, however this is not available in the US at this time and is not easily portable.

Mr. White advised that the first treatment with glyphosate usually kills 90-95% of the plants. There is a concern that the plant may adapt if it is not killed the first time, however, there has not been any evidence of this.

Mr. White suggested that the Town begin by gathering information, and the Conservation Commission could spearhead this effort with a citizen science project. Residents could volunteer to cover sections of roadways. Mr. White advised that he could present at an information session for residents. It was suggested that the Commission contact Elise Lawson to help with the iNaturalist program, as she already works with the Forest Commission and could provide training.

For treatment of the knotweed, Mr. White noted that there are a few contractors that are equipped to treat along roadways, including a local woman who works with a company out of southern NH, and a man from Massachusetts who comes up to do work on several projects in the area at once. Mr. White advised that work along the roadway would require posting notices and getting permission from homeowners. Mr. White advised that the NH Highway Department is responsible for invasive species along state highways.

The Commission decided that Gary Newfield would submit an article for the April and June issues of Mountain View explaining the project. Michele Cormier noted that a direct mailing could also be sent to residents who are known to have Japanese Knotweed on their property. Mr. White suggested that the Commission could set a budget, and the contractor could spray as much as possible within the budgeted amount. Mr. White will facilitate contact between the local contractor and Phil Guiser. A Conservation Day will be scheduled, and Gary Newfield will contact Elise Lawson regarding setting up a page on iNaturalist.

It was noted that you have to be careful when spraying glyphosate, as it is a broad-spectrum herbicide and can damage nearby plants. Care also has to be taken, and a special permit is required, near water. Aquatic safe glyphosate products are available.

Mr. White provided handouts to Commission members. Mr. White noted that other invasive species in the area are Common and Glossy Buckthorn, Barberry, and Loosestrife.

Michele Cormier suggested creating a flyer about the project and posting it on both the Forest Commission and Town websites. It was also suggested that David DeGruttola from LandVest be contacted, and he was instrumental in organizing the treatment of Japanese Knotweed in the Randolph Community Forest.

Wildlife Crossing

Gary Newfield advised that they are resubmitting the grant application for the wildlife crossing. This time they are proposing fencing along Route 2 to help funnel animals to the crossing. It was noted that the Forest Commission has been opposed to fencing, and it was suggested that the Conservation Commission attend a Forest Commission meeting to review the current proposal. It was noted that it will be important to know how much fencing is proposed and where it will be. Cattle guards were suggested for the driveways and roads that would be in the fenced area.

Other

Gary Newfield will contact Conservation Commission members who have not been active to see if they would like to continue on the Commission. If not, Newfield advised that he does have one person who is interested in serving. The Board consists of five members.

Nathan Peters advised that they recently held a meeting with the Forest Service, who will be moving forward with an old growth designation for the Snyder Brook Scenic Area. This will make sure that they cannot harvest in that area in the future.

Adjournment: On a motion from Philip Guiser, seconded by Nathan Peters, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelli Fortin

December 18, 2025