



Town of Middleton

182 Kings Highway, Middleton, New Hampshire 03887

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Sunrise Lake Watershed Advisory Committee

SLWAC Meeting Minutes August 28th 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 PM. Present were Chairman John Mullen, Vice-Chair Dave Miller, Members Cindy DeCristofaro, Gail Jones, Kate Buzard and member/clerk Joni van Gelder

Housekeeping

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Clerk reviewed the in-kind minutes through end of July for the “319 grant” and noted that we were slightly over 51%. Chairman Mullen reminded the members that the Clerk is retiring from her duties as well as her membership in the Committee as of 12/31 and asked for volunteers.

Vice Chair Miller asked that a resolution be passed commending the outgoing clerk for her hard work and dedication, which passed unanimously. (And thank you from the clerk!)

Financial Report

Kate Buzard presented the monthly financial statement as she is now in charge of that function. The committee unanimously expressed appreciation for the new format.

Minutes

With no discussion, the minutes of the July 24th meeting were accepted as written (DeCristofaro/Mullen).

With no discussion the minutes of the August 14th update meeting were accepted as written (DeCristofaro/Miller).

Touch a Truck event update

Chairman Mullen noted that the new tent is very easy to set up/take down and a discussion was held regarding purchasing totes to better store our materials. (no vote taken). The event in of itself was well attended by residents and their families, with the Conservation Commission, SLWAC and Strafford Regional Planning sharing event space. It was suggested that the next event of that nature the Committee have either a cotton candy or popcorn machine to get parents/children to the displays.

Milfoil/VLAP Updates

The Chair noted that when the recent “DASH” treatment was done the divers noted a particular density of milfoil in one area. The State has since visited and identified that as an area of concern. The next VLAP testing is scheduled for September.

Watershed Management Plan Update

The Minutes of the August 14th meeting that were approved covered the bulk of the meeting, but there were some action items that were identified during that meeting that required follow-up:

- ☐ Steve Cameron volunteered to assist, and will discuss with his sons
- ☐ Road Agent Dan Phillips had volunteered his time after hours as well as town equipment. It was determined at the recent BOS meeting that due to liability issues, that is not possible.
- ☐ The Chairman had taken the action item at that meeting to contact Paul Barron, and will do so.
- ☐ The Chairman had taken the action item at that meeting to invite the Conservation Committee and Planning Board to this meeting, but that was not completed. This can still take place at a future meeting
- ☐ The wetland permit has been signed off on by SRP. This is an expedited minimal impact application. The DES must make a decision within a specific time frame. The abutters were notified but it should be noted that 8 of the 9 abutters live out of town.
- ☐ The Chairman will email all associations to join with the committee at the BOS meeting 9/8. That was approved by motion (DeCristofaro/Miller)
- ☐ Volunteers who will be working on private property is at the discretion of the land owners and their home insurance policies.

Future Events/Publications

A brief conversation was held as a start to planning for 2026 events. The Chairman indicated he felt the focus for 2026 should be areas such as communicating the importance of septic maintenance, and the impact of boat traffic on Sunrise Lake. This led to a discussion of a recent incident on the lake involving what is thought to be a visitor who was swamping the loons, driving recklessly, etc. It was not possible to get the Bow# of the boat to report it, and part of the committee's communications to the public should be to remind everyone that reporting inappropriate behavior on Facebook does not resolve anything, and that whether the situation involves the Marine Patrol or Fish & Game, those entities should be contacted. They will come if asked but they, like any emergency management official does not monitor Facebook to see what issues are being reported.

The Chairman will reserve time, potentially for July 11th 2026 for the annual lake update with NH Lakes and Marine Patrol. It was also mentioned that the next flyer should address these issues in a more direct way.

AWWA (Acton Wakefield Watershed Alliance) The Chairman will invite their Chair to the September meeting for the purpose of identifying ways we can partner.

Airbnb Member Gail Jones suggested that the committee look into ways to require Airbnb owners to post information regarding boat safety.

Member Comments

A discussion among members concerned table costs and possible sources for purchase

The clerk suggested that Kyle Pimental from SRP be invited to attend the upcoming BOS meeting where a discussion regarding ways to use town resources the BOS has previously committed to, so that insurance is in play and no potential liability issues will be of concern. The Chairman will do so. **(ACTION ITEM)**

With no further business before the committee, a motion to adjourn was made at 6:45 PM (Mullen/DeCristofaro)

Respectfully submitted

Joni van Gelder
Member/Clerk