



Town of Portsmouth
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2200 East Main Road
Portsmouth, Rhode Island 02871
www.portsmouthri.com

TOWN HALL – PORTSMOUTH ROOM
Minutes
March 5, 2026
SPECIAL MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Lankarge, Brandon Ritt, Elizabeth Pedro, Jeffrey Reise, Conni Harding, Johna Spencer.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: David Reise, Town Council Liaison; Leah Hitchen, Town Planner; David Allen, Aquidneck Country Club President; Dean Chase, Aquidneck Country Club Golf Course Superintendent; Edward Lopes, Consultant; Lynn Small, Northeast Engineering; Joe McHugh, McHugh Environmental.

Chair Pete Lankarge called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

NEW BUSINESS – Discussion and Action:

1. NOTICE from RI Department of Environmental Management

The Commission discussed a notification letter that was received on Friday, February 13th from the RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM) regarding a proposed project at the Aquidneck Country Club to alter freshwater wetlands. The Notice stated that comments regarding the project would need to be received by March 23rd, therefore the Commission called this Special Meeting in order to have comments submitted on time. Since the notification materials were lengthy, the Commission felt that this item needed more time to review.

Representatives from the Aquidneck Country Club were present to answer questions from the Commission members regarding the project. The Town Planner provided detailed maps as well as a digital map shown on the monitor in the room.

After satisfactory discussion was completed, the Commission members were satisfied with the plans to mitigate the loss of one wetland with the creation of another, more substantial wetland in an area better suited to the needs of the wildlife.

A MOTION was made by Jeffrey Reise and seconded by Conni Harding to support the proposal as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission then drafted a letter to submit to DEM to inform them of the decision. A MOTION was made by Johna Spencer and seconded by Brandon Ritt to approve the letter as drafted. The motion passed unanimously. The Secretary will compose the letter and send it to DEM, with copies forwarded to the Portsmouth Town Council and the Aquidneck Country Club.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: March 19, 2026

A MOTION was made by Elizabeth Pedro and seconded by Conni Harding to adjourn the meeting at 5:52 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Pedro
Secretary