

## RCC 2025 Budget narrative

The Conservation Commission will continue with land management surveying projects as well as invasive species work in the Town Forest and on other properties, including but not limited to Brown Lane Farm, and salt marshes. RCC received 2025 estimates from the Rockingham County Conservation District for continuing invasive plant work at our October 10, 2024 meeting. (Budget line items: property maintenance, salt marsh restoration, and Town Forest.)

RCC has continued working on the large project in the Town Forest. With assistance from Charlie Moreno, forester for the Town Forest, we have moved the portion of the green trail that crossed private property, on to town owned property. We expect to complete this project in the near term. RCC is also working on other projects in the Town Forest, some caused by blowdown from the storms this year. (Budget line items: town forest, consulting, property maintenance)

Another large, ongoing project is our work with the Rye Water District (RWD) at the Brown Lane Farm property. RWD has drilled a test well and is currently testing water obtained from the location. (Budget line items: consultants, including wetland delineations and vernal pool delineations by wetland scientists)

RCC is in the process of obtaining DES permits for work on the following:

1. Bog bridges at Brown Lane Farm (land management)
2. Bog bridges in the Town Forest (land management)
3. Restoring damage to Seavey Acres on the upward slope and stream crossing (property maintenance)
4. Continuing work at Whitehorse Conservation land regarding water issues (property maintenance)

The Goss Barn maintenance project has been completed. New clapboards have been installed on the east and west sides of the barn. The new clapboards and all trim have been painted. This project zero's out our Goss Barn Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund. RCC is considering several additional farm projects including a well pump house, installation of lightning rods and reskinning the hoop house. Management of the community gardens and the farmers is ongoing

\*\*Consulting fees are comprised of outside consultants such as wetland scientists, foresters and engineers

\*\*Land management examples: land surveys, granite posts, new trails and markers

\*\*Property maintenance examples: maintenance of existing trails, mowing, tree removal

\*\*Land acquisition: costs associated with purchasing land, recording fees, closing costs, estimates