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MINUTES
February 4, 2026

MEMBER ROLL CALL:

Ralph Lutjen, Chairman – Present	Ted Slader (Alternate) – Present
Mike Brooks, Vice Chair – Present	Marcia McKenna – Present
Mike Mosher –Present	Marc Ohlson –Excused
Liza Rogerson (Alternate) – Excused	Josh Shackford - Excused
Nicole Nordlund - Present	

OTHERS PRESENT: Lauren Woss - Madison TV and Katharine Young, Land Use Boards Administrator

MEETING POSTED: The meeting was posted in the Madison Town Hall Upper & Lower levels, Madison & Silver Lake Post Offices on January 28, 2026.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Lutjen called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

ELEVATION OF ALTERNATES: **Motion** by Lutjen, seconded by Brooks to elevate Slader, an Alternate, to a full voting member. The motion was voted on and passed **unanimously**.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Lutjen asked for any comments or revisions to the minutes from the January 8, 2026 meeting and since there were none, he asked for a motion for approval.

Motion by Brooks, seconded by McKenna to approve the January 8, 2026 minutes as written. The motion was voted on and passed **unanimously**.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mosher explained that there is a snowmobiling issue on the “Chain of Ponds” property owned by Upper Saco Valley Land Trust (USVLT) and that someone is plowing the access road off of Forest Pines Road to the power lines. Chairman Lutjen stated he had been to the Tin Mountain presentation on January 12, 2026 and it was discussed that USVLT has recognized that ATV’s have been used on the property and that USVLT is discussing how to deal with this. He explained that there was no mention of snowmobiles. He further explained that USVLT needs to get their process going and that they have captured many ideas that Chairman Lutjen views as impractical and he believes that USVLT is looking for input. It was agreed that Young, Land Use Boards Administrator contact Linda Comeau at USVLT and let her know about the snowmobile issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tim Nolin – Forest Land Improvement: Nolin was not present at the meeting. There was a brief discussion that Nolin had previously agreed to walk the “Chain of Ponds” property at no charge, to familiarize himself with the property and develop a plan. Chairman Lutjen stated that due to the snow conditions, this may have been delayed.

Property Review Commitments: No action was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: McKenna discussed information about invasive species spraying programs. She explained that she had researched a program done in Dublin, New Hampshire where the Conservation Commission offers assistance to landowners to combat non-native invasive plants like buckthorn, knotweed and bittersweet. She further explained that the Dublin program hires a licensed professional to apply herbicide to kill invasive plants. The program costs approximately \$4,000 annually, with about half covered by landowner contributions. The service treats multiple properties (28 in the most recent year) over two days.

Commission members discussed the challenge of invasive plants, particularly knotweed, which was described as extremely difficult to eradicate with roots that can penetrate up to 20 feet deep. There was consensus to research how to initiate such a program in Madison, possibly surveying the town to assess the extent of invasive species, and considering ways to get public support and potential funding.

SELECTMAN’S REPORT: Selectman Nordlund explained that she had a letter from NHDES regarding the Lead Mine Road contamination issue and shared it with the commission.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT: Ohlson was not present at the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE CORRESPONDENCE: Young, Land Use Boards Administrator had nothing to report.

Leaping Lizards: Slader reported on research into the Leaping Lizards Adventure program, run by Ken Durian in Freedom. The program offers a one-hour presentation featuring reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates for \$375. The commission also discussed Wildlife Encounters, which they have used in previous years. Wildlife Encounters offers three program options: Cold Creations (\$375), Junior Zookeeper (\$475), and Global Tours (\$575).

Motion by Lutjen, seconded by Mosher for the commission to continue with the Junior Zookeeper program from Wildlife Encounters at a cost of \$475.00. The motion was voted on and passed **unanimously**.

McKenna brought up Styrofoam recycling, noting that Guilford Solid Waste Center now accepts #6 foam for recycling. Several other towns are participating in the program. The commission agreed to investigate whether this could be implemented at Madison's transfer station and to consider updating the transfer station brochure with more recycling options. McKenna also asked if the commission should update the transfer station brochure. It was asked of Young, Land Use Boards Administrator to bring the current brochure to the meeting on March 5, 2026.

Chairman Lutjen went over the account balances as noted below:

Account Balances as of December 31, 2025 – (January Statements not available yet)

Conservation Land Use Change Tax: **\$29,818.02**

Forest Maintenance Account: **\$110,481.91**

Conservation Gift Account: **\$358.83**

Capital Reserve Account: **Balance as of December, 2025 was \$64,163.80**

Motion by Brooks, seconded by Mosher to adjourn the meeting. The motion was voted on and passed **unanimously** and the meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Submitted by,

Katharine Young
Land Use Boards Administrator