



*Town of Seymour*  
**Conservation Commission (CNC)**  
Thursday, July 23, 2026 6:00 PM

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 7/31/26  
TIME: 11:21 AM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

Christopher Willis Conference Room  
20 Pine Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Seymour, CT 06483

**Members Present:** Joe Niezelski, Jr., Karen Bertapelle; Nancy Chucta; Marietta Sabetta

**Others:** Jeff Baryla, Advisor; Theresa Conroy; Ron Skurat, Jr.

**Members Absent:** None (1 vacancy)

**1. Call to Order**

*Chair Joe Niezelki, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM*

*All present stood, saluted the flag, and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.*

*Chairman appointed Jeff Baryla to Secretary Pro Tempore for this meeting.*

**2. Roll Call**

*A quorum was established. There were no alternates present.*

**3. Public Comment**

Theresa Conroy, 177 Skokorat Street, spoke of the sale of 100 Prospect Street that took place on Tuesday evening (07/21). The new owner intends to keep the land undeveloped. Conroy thought this was good news that the commission would appreciate hearing about. She also mentioned that she and several other residents were appointed that evening to a new Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Steering Committee, which will work with staff from NVCOG. She recalls the commission discussed the POCD recently, about submitting an Open Space Plan. Board members could reach out to her regarding this. She also shared that she met with a representative from Senator Murphy's office to ask about open space funding, money for trails, and similar grant opportunities.

**4. Approval of May 21, 2026 Minutes**

*Motion by M. Sabetta to approve May 21, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented.*

*Seconded by K. Bertapelle. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.*

**5. Reports & Correspondence**

**A. Monthly Trail Manager's Report**

All commissioners reviewed the report. Baryla noted the schedule of events had not yet been approved by Beautification Commission, but would be updated in his final report submitted along with this meeting's meetings. There were no questions or comments.

**B. Emails/Letters to Commission**

Baryla read emails received from Ron Skurat and Amy Blaymore Paterson. **[Attached]**

## **6. Old Business**

### **A. Update on CT DEEP Resilient Forestry Practices Grant**

Nothing new to report. Deadline for town to apply is 5:00 PM EST on August 31, 2026.

## **7. New Business**

### **A. Discussion on Recent Littering, Vandalism, Etc. at Open Spaces**

All engaged in an open discussion on these details. Baryla encouraged dialog to address any/all illegal activities witnessed. Bertapelle shared how she and McMahon (former Chair), while picking up litter at Little Laurel, discovered a deer stand with game camera, a bag containing drug paraphernalia, and tents of people camping. Baryla added that the dumping of yard waste at Paramount and other properties continues to be an issue. He and Brannen (Chair of Beautification) also observed graffiti on several boulders and trees in Little Laurel. Additionally, the presence of motorized quads and dirt bikes has increased. Baryla shared that the 'final straw' for him was his recent gruesome discovery of a deceased dog that was dumped near the trail head at Keith Mitchell Forest/Eagle Landing. He asked for permission to relay all of these issues to the Board of Selectpersons and to request that the town purchase and install trail cameras at all properties mentioned. Chairman Niezelski agreed, noting that cameras which upload to a cloud and allow police and/or other first responders immediate access for the safety of all residents would be preferred.

## **8. Adjournment**

*Motion by N. Chucta. Seconded by M. Sabetta.*

*All in favor (4-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM*

Respectfully Submitted,

*Jeff Baryla*

Secretary Pro Tempore/Advisor to the Commission

***Seymour Conservation Commission will next meet on Thurs Aug 20 at 6:00 PM.***

**[Attachment (Emails to the Commission)]**

Jul 8, 2026, 2:31 PM

just a heads-up, when I was putting this year's hikes into my calendar I noticed that "36 Tibbetts Rd" in Google Maps is wildly off base, placing a pin way over in someone's driveway at 11 High Ridge Rd.

The correct parking area is properly labeled at the foot of Tibbetts Rd ([9V5F+J3 Seymour, Connecticut](#)) so an internet-savvy person can figure it out. Sadly not all persons are internet-savvy.

Ron Skurat (Jr)

Jul 6, 2026, 10:31 AM

CT DEEP recently announced the next round of competitive grant funding through the [Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition \(OSWA\)](#) and [Urban Green and Community Garden \(UGCG\)](#) grant Programs.

OSWA provides financial assistance to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire land for open space, and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II water supply property.

UGCG is available to distressed municipalities, targeted investment communities, registered non-profit organizations, and municipalities that are an environmental justice community. The program provides funding assistance to develop or enhance urban green spaces for public enjoyment and/or environmental education.

For OSWA: Applications are due 11/6/26; Appraisal Reviews are due 12/4/26.  
For UGCG: Applications due 12/4/26.

We look forward to sharing these important funding opportunities with you.  
Best Regards,



Amy Blaymore Paterson  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Land Conservation Council