



Town of Seymour
Conservation Commission (CNC)
Thursday, August 20, 2026 6:00 PM

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 8/26/26
TIME: 2:20 PM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Regular Meeting Minutes

Christopher Willis Conference Room
20 Pine Street 2nd Floor, Seymour, CT 06483

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

Others: Jeff Baryla, Advisor; John McKenzie, Land Use Dept. Liaison; Debbie Alterio (Public)

Members Absent: Marietta Sabetta

1. Call to Order

Chairman Joe Niezelki, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:01 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

None.

4. Approval of July 23, 2026 Minutes

Motion by N. Chucta to approve July 23, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Seconded by K. Bertapelle. No discussion. Motion carried 3-0.

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 the email from Ron Skurat, Jr. [Attached] Last month, Mr. Skurat notified the commission that the location pin on GoogleMaps for Little Laurel Lime Ridge was out in the north-center of the property near High Ridge Road, instead of near the end of Tibbets Road where it should be. Skurat requested an edit on GoogleMaps to move the pin to the end of Tibbets Road. After his second attempt, they approved his request.

6. Old Business

A. Update on CT DEEP Resilient Forestry Practices Grant

Neither the board nor dept. received an update from Town. Deadline to apply is Aug 31.

7. New Business

A. Discussion on Charge of Commission and Future Focus/Goals

Baryla shared with members that they are authorized by state statute (CGS § 7-131a) to advise on, inventory, and promote the protection, development, and sustainable use of a municipality's natural resources. A Conservation Commission's duties typically involve: a. acting as an investigative advisor to other land-use boards such as planning & zoning and the inland-wetlands agency, b. maintaining a comprehensive index and map of all public and private open space areas, including swamps, wetlands, and marshlands, c. formulating watershed, drought management, and greenways plans to preserve the town's natural character, d. acting as steward for town-owned open-space properties, nature preserves, and local trails, e. distributing educational materials, promoting green practices, and informing residents about environmental and conservation concerns, and f. researching and applying for state, federal, or private grants to fund local open space acquisition and environmental projects. Baryla recommended that commissioners: attend other land-use boards' meetings, communicate with their members, draft a 10-year greenways plan, and engage the public more through social media posts and other forms of outreach. He reminded all present that, as the board's advisor he will gladly provide info and recommendations when asked or needed, but members should be acting through their appointed Chair to perform the tasks they are authorized by state law.

The commission held an open discussion on the above statements. All agreed that the board's immediate focus should be recruiting to fill vacancies, including alternates. New members would be welcomed, provided info on the commission and its goal, and board tasks could be assigned with progress updates at each monthly meeting. Niezelski supported drafting a Greenways Plan. He feels that would be great way to improve the board's focus by outlining long-term goals for all to reach. Bertapelle and Chucta agreed. Bertapelle suggested the board re-visit all open space parcels and update action plans. Baryla offered to accompany commissioners on visits when that time comes.

8. Public Comment

Debbie Alterio, of 37 Cold Spring Drive, Oxford, stated that she attended the meeting with the intention of just observing, but wanted to share that she thinks the board does an amazing job, and she believes it is a shame the commission currently lacks any funding.

9. Adjournment

Motion by K. Bertapelle. Seconded by N. Chucta.

All in favor (3-0). 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 Sept 17 at 6:00 PM.

[Attachment (Emails to the Commission)]

Fwd: Accepted: Your address edit to 36 Tibbets Road, Seymour, CT

Ron Skurat, Jr.

Tue, Aug 4, 2026 at 9:16 AM

To: Seymour Conservation <seymourconservation@gmail.com>

it worked on the second try

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Google Maps** <google-maps-noreply@google.com>

Date: Sun, Aug 2, 2026 at 6:34 PM

Subject: Accepted: Your address edit to 36 Tibbets Road, Seymour, CT

We've accepted your edit

Your edit to 36 Tibbets Road, Seymour, CT was accepted.

Thanks for making Maps more accurate and reliable.



Edited Aug 2, 2026 · Accepted

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You can track the status of your edit anytime in Edits.