



Town of Seymour
Beautification Commission (SBC)

Thursday, August 20, 2026 7:00 PM

Regular Meeting Minutes

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

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

Members Present: Vice-Chair Nancy Chucta; Secretary Jeff Baryla; JoElle Anderson;
Others: John McKenzie, Land Use Dept. Liaison;
Members Absent: Chairman Stuart Brannen; Zach Succow

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Nancy Chucta called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM
All present stood, saluted the flag, and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was established.

3. Public Comment

None present. The board also received no written request for comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. July 23, 2026

Motion by J. Baryla to approve the July 23, 2026 regular meeting minutes, with corrections as stated: all incorrect event dates & locations changed for accuracy. Seconded by J. Anderson.

Chucta and Anderson both inquired on the changes. Baryla explained that Chairman Brannen had reached out to him about a week after the last meeting asking him to juggle a few of the dates and locations. Baryla accommodated, but feels strongly that this should never happen again for two reasons: 1. the board agrees on and approves these events collectively, and 2. since all events are shared with the public, changing them after the fact could lead to confusion. Chucta and Anderson both agreed.

All in favor. Motion passed 3-0.

5. Reports & Correspondence

A. Monthly Trail Manager's Report

All commissioners reviewed the report. There were no questions or comments.

B. Emails/Letters to Commission

The board received no emails or letters of correspondence.

6. Old Business

A. Update on Collaboration with Seymour Land Trust

At last month's meeting, commissioners had shared concerns that promotion wasn't coming from the Land Trust's social media account. Chairman Brannen had also commented that he felt 70% of the volunteers/participants at our cleanup events should have been Land Trust members since this was Land Trust property, not town-owned land. Baryla and Land Trust President Alex Danko later spoke over the phone. Danko explained that the Land Trust Facebook account is not controlled by any of the Land Trust's officers, but rather a private individual. He also said he wasn't aware of either cleanup event. The board agreed to contact Mr. Danko directly to discuss any future joint/collaboration events. A Land Trust representative at future meetings may also be

helpful. The board also felt that it would be best for the Land Trust to schedule the most convenient date for its members to clean up 338 Roosevelt. SBC would help promote the event, and any members and/or residents available on that date could assist.

7. New Business

A. Discussion and Possible Action on Rainbow Bridge Subcommittee

There was interest in a recent Facebook post regarding constructing a rainbow bridge. Since the First Selectwoman had initially charged this board with performing this duty last May, Baryla suggested creating and appointing an ad-hoc "Rainbow Bridge" committee to help bring this project to fruition. Such a committee could hold working meetings to survey an ideal location, draft the bridge design, perform landscaping, and/or oversee construction. Members of the public who wish to help could attend any public meetings and/or hearings. This committee could assign tasks for volunteers to carry out and assist. Such an ad-hoc committee would cease to exist once the bridge is completed.

N. Chucta moved to create an ad-hoc Rainbow Bridge Committee for all purposes stated above, appointing Jeff Baryla, and JoElle Anderson. Seconded by: J. Baryla.

Chucta then asked whether it would be better to take action with a full board present. Baryla explained that one could move to table action. However, a quorum of only 3 requires unanimous vote, and a vote of 3 would also pass if a full board of 5 were present. *All voted in favor. Motion passed 3-0.*

B. Revise and Approve Upcoming Event Schedule

The board collectively agreed to the following upcoming event dates & locations:

Sat Aug 22 9:30 AM Work Party Little Laurel (knotweed)	Sat Aug 29 9:30 AM Work Party Gary Park (knotweed) (also mow mugwort)	Sat Sep 5 9:30 AM Work Party Gary Park (trail restore)	Sat Sep 12 9:30 AM Work Party Keith Mitchell
Sat Sep 19 9:30 AM Work Party Paramount (cut & paint)	Sat Sep 26 9:30 AM Work Party Little Laurel (cut & paint)	Sat Oct 3 9:30 AM Work Party Keith Mitchell (cut & paint)	Sat Oct 10 Work Party Fountain Lake North (trail restore)

C. Discussion on Proposed 2027-2028 Budget Line Items

The First Selectwoman has asked for SBC's thoughts/suggestions on a budget. Baryla recommends reviewing last year's submission and adjusting for inflation. Main requested funds would be for conferences/education, community outreach/activities/hikes, and trail maintenance/improvements/construction. Board to provide a draft estimate in Sept.

8. Adjournment

Motion by N. Chucta. Seconded by J. Baryla.

All in favor (3-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Baryla

Secretary/Trail Manager

Seymour Beautification Commission will next meet on Thurs Sept 17 at 7:00 PM.

[Attachment (Minutes for Approval, with Changes)]

Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Members Present: Chairman Stuart Brannen; Vice-Chair Nancy Chucta; Secretary Jeff Baryla
Others: None.

Members Absent: JoElle Anderson, Zach Succow

1. Call to Order

Chairman Stuart Brannen called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM
All present stood, saluted the flag, and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was established.

3. Public Comment

None present. The commission also received no written request for comment.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. April 23, 2026

Motion by J. Baryla to approve the Apr 23, 2026 regular meeting minutes, as presented. Seconded by N. Chucta. There was no discussion. *Motion carried 3-0.*

5. Reports & Correspondence

A. Monthly Trail Manager's Report

All commissioners reviewed the report. There were no questions or comments.

B. Emails/Letters to Commission

The board received no emails or letters of correspondence.

6. Old Business

A. Update on Collaboration with Seymour Land Trust

The board held an open discussion on this topic. Baryla shared that the second cleanup event of the Land Trust parcel was held on July 11. Brannen and Baryla both noted that, once again, no members or volunteers representing the Seymour Land Trust were present. Baryla reminded the board that any collaboration between the two entities ought to be 50:50. Chairman Brannen argued that it should be 70:30 for the cleanup, since this was the Land Trust's property. He felt that more representation should be coming from the Land Trust and its members. Additionally, all commissioners noticed that all promotion for the educational events has been coming from either SBC board members or the Town. No posts or advertisements are being shared by the Land Trust. Baryla will discuss this imbalance with Alex Danko, and ask for increased promotion and representation from the Land Trust regarding all future events. The next educational event is "The Closer You Look" on Friday August 14 at 5:00 PM in the Henry Hamel Environmental Building. ~~The next cleanup of Land Trust property adjacent to Keith-Mitchell Forest will take place on Saturday October 10 at 10:00 AM.~~

7. New Business

A. Revise and Approve Upcoming Event Schedule

The board openly discussed and agreed to the following dates/events:

Sat Jul 25 9:30 AM Work Party Little Laurel (knotweed)	Sat Aug 1 9:30 AM Work Party Gary Park (knotweed)	Fri Aug 14 5:00 PM Educational Event Land Trust Building	Sat Aug 15 9:30 AM Work Party Gary Park (knotweed) <u>Little Laurel</u> (refresh trail blazes)
Sat Aug 22 9:30 AM Work Party Little Laurel (refresh trail blazes) (knotweed)	Sat Aug 29 9:30 AM Work Party Little Laurel <u>Gary Park</u> (knotweed)	Sat Sep 5 9:30 AM Work Party Gary Park (trail restoration)	Sat Sep 12 9:30 AM Work Party Keith Mitchell (improve access into Land Trust)

Commissioners also shared their opinions on stretching themselves thin by focusing on too many properties/projects at once. Barylá noted he has done invasive plant management at eight (8) individual town-owned properties so far, not counting properties owned by the Land Trust [24 Chucta, 338 Roosevelt, 20A Edward, and 2 Butternut). Brannen urged a stronger focus on only properties that have or are planning to add/restore/improve trails. Chucta agreed, stating that invasive plant management is very important, and a rainbow bridge at the Dog Park is a great idea, but the boards' primary goal and reason for forming is to manage trails and improve passive recreation.

8. Public Comment

None.

9. Adjournment

Motion by N. Chucta. Seconded by S. Brannen.

All in favor (3-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Barylá

Secretary/Trail Manager