

TOWN OF CANAAN
INLAND WETLANDS/CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2025

Members Present: Mark Burdick, Brant Burz, Susan Kelsey, Ellery Sinclair, Marlene van Gulick
Others Present: John Allen, Chris Kinsella

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Burdick. Minutes of June 16, 2025 were reviewed. Sinclair made a motion to accept minutes as presented; seconded by Burz; passed unanimously.

Public Input: None

Old Business:

- A. Elm Tree, Brewster Road:** No update.
- B. Cobble Road Repair Update:** Chris Kinsella joined the meeting and gave an update on the plans for repairing Cobble Road. The State has condemned the bridge over the Hollenbeck River and has set a 4-ton limit for that bridge. As access for large vehicles to the houses on Cobble Road will now be from Undermountain Road, repair of Cobble Road is necessary. The plan is to raise the road bed approximately 4 inches with 6-inch quarry limestone rock, starting at the culvert over Wangum Brook and extending 850 feet easterly toward Undermountain Road. Textile fabric will be used as an underlayment to enhance road stabilization. In addition, rocks will be set along the edges of the road to further stabilize the road; Burz strongly recommended using rocks of significant size for the road edging. Cardinal Engineering will be advising the Town regarding the road repair.
- C. Town Long-Term Street Tree Management Plan:** Sinclair has been trying to contact Bruce Bennett, tree warden for Kent and Cornwall, for advice regarding the management of street trees in towns. Sinclair will continue to attempt to contact Bennett. Kelsey suggested the Commission initiate a conversation with the Board of Selectmen; Kinsella recommended that a letter be sent to the selectmen expressing the Commission's interest in addressing long-term street tree management and its' willingness to work with the selectmen and highway department. Sinclair will write said letter. Kelsey asked what the current status is of our Town's involvement with Sustainable CT; van Gulick will check with Janna Siller to see if she is the current Town's liason with Sustainable CT.
- D. New Commission Members:** Burdick requested that members continue to think of individuals who might want to serve as a commission member and/or alternate.
- E. POCD:** Burdick will contact Doug Cohn of P&Z for an update on the POCD.

New Business:

- A. August Regular Meeting:** Discussion ensued regarding whether or not to cancel the Commission's August meeting; there is the possibility of there not being a quorum on August 18th. It was decided to change the meeting to August 25th, with the possibility of cancelling the meeting.

Routing Sheets Sign-offs:

- A. Proper, 47 Route 7 South:** 16 X 30' deck.

Communications:

- A. Roundtable Discussion, Sharon IW Commission:** Invitation to local wetland commission members to attend a discussion of wetland issues on July 24th, 7-8:30 p.m. Kelsey will try to attend.
- B. Japanese Knotweed Workshop for Public Works Supervisors and Selectmen:** Workshop on how to mitigate roadside invasives to be held on July 29th, 8 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. in Winchester.
- C. Connecticut Wetland Mitigation in Lieu Fee Program Grant:** First Selectman forwarded information regarding a grant program for restoration, creation, enhancement and preservation of wetlands. A letter of intent is due by the 25th. Kelsey will research the grant and contact the contact person and the selectmen to determine if the town should attempt to apply. Members wondered if the Cobble Road repair project would qualify.

Sinclair made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.; seconded by Burz; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary