

Town of Canaan
Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
October 20, 2025

Members Present: Mark Burdick, Brant Burz, Susan Kelsey, Ellery Sinclair

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. Minutes of September 15, 2025 were reviewed. Motion by Burz to approve minutes as presented; seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously.

Public Input: None

Old Business:

1. Street Tree Maintenance: Burz presented information regarding street trees and areas of extensive bittersweet on Canaan Mountain Road and Undermountain Road that are in need of attention; location of said trees is depicted on a schematic. Members will continue to gather information during the next month on trees located on Johnson Road, Page Road, Barnes Road and Music Mountain Road. Subsequent to accumulation of additional information, the Commission will reach out again to Bruce Bennett for advice on how to create/prioritize a maintenance plan for town street trees.

2. Town Roadside Mowing and Herbicide Application: Sinclair had written a draft letter to the selectmen expressing our concerns about the apparent reduction in width being mowed back along the town roadways and herbicides being applied in what the Commission considers to be sensitive areas. Members suggested a few changes to the letter and Sinclair will incorporate suggestions into a revised letter.

3. Commission Membership: Burdick will contact Gallagher asking for a letter of resignation if he is not intending to continue serving on the Commission.

New Business:

1. Annual Report: To date, Kelsey has not submitted the Commission's Annual Report but will do so as soon as possible.

2. First Light Equipment Upgrade: Sinclair expressed concern about the extensive activity occurring at the power plant in proximity to the Housatonic River. Dick Heinz, the town's representative on the Housatonic River Commission, told Sinclair that the company had received approval from the CT Siting Council prior to the river's designation as "Wild and Scenic". Sinclair will contact First Selectmen Barger to see what, if any, information regarding the activity was shared with the town. It appears that the land east of river in the area of the activity is not designated as being in the floodplain or designated as wetlands. Burdick commented that it would have been nice to have received notification of the pending activity. Sinclair questioned if there had been a public hearing for the activity and will confer again with Heinz. He will also send a letter to the Siting Council asking for clarification regarding the approval process.

3. HVRHS/Eversource Leased Property: Sinclair is advocating that a portion of the property leased by the high school be used for a chestnut orchard. Acquiring an additional acre is being researched to facilitate this proposed use.

Routing Sheet Sign-Offs:

1. Jessie Davidson, 18 Brewster Road: House demolition.

Communications: None

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary