

TOWN OF CANAAN
INLAND WETLANDS/CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2025

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

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Burdick. Sinclair made a motion to accept minutes as presented; seconded by Burz; passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Cobble Road Repair Update: Burz and van Gulick updated the Commission on activity regarding the upgrading of Cobble Road. The roadbed in the area subject to flooding has been built up with significant fill, several culverts have been installed, large rocks placed along the edge of the road, and drainage ditches have been dug along the edge of the road. Van Gulick is optimistic that this upgrade will reduce flooding of the road, facilitating access to Undermountain Road. Burz will visit the site prior to the Commission's next meeting and give an update.

2. Street Tree Management Plan: The Commission continues to gather data on trees along town roads that appear to be risk factors, as well as noting areas of significant invasive growth. Burdick submitted a sketch of said trees along Johnson Road. Members will continue to canvass town roads to gather data to use in conjunction with formulating a management plan for town street trees. The emerald ash borer and its impact on ash have resulted in a marked increase in dead trees along the roads that demand attention. Burdick will contact Bruce Bennett to see if he is willing to meet with the Commission and offer advice on how to proceed in the formulation of a street tree management plan. Burdick informed members that a subcommittee of P & Z is working on the Town Plan of Conservation and Development that will assign specific action plans to the various town committees. The subcommittee had hoped to get a STEAP grant for tree removal but were lacking sufficient data regarding the need for said removal. Kelsey will speak with Barger regarding the STEAP grant process.

3. Town Roadside Mowing and Maintenance: Sinclair presented a draft memo to the Board of Selectmen expressing the Commission's concern that the town's roadsides are not being maintained to the degree they have been in the past; concerns regarding herbicide usage were also noted. Sinclair will forward the memo to the Board. Burdick reported he had spoken with the Cornwall Highway Department and was told most of their roadside maintenance was by mechanical means, except for treatment of Japanese Knotweed, for which they work with Bob Gambino and apply herbicides. Burdick queried who is our town's supervising herbicide applicator, if he is licensed, and what are they spraying? Kelsey will ask Barger.

4. Commission Members: Terms for Burdick, Burz and Gallagher expire at the end of 2025. Burdick sent an email to Matt Gallagher requesting that he inform the Commission that he no longer wishes to serve on the IW/CC. Van Gulick will speak with Maria Grusauskus about serving as an alternate. Mark Gozonsky is another possible alternate.

5. Annual Report: Kelsey reported the 2024 – 2025 annual report for the Commission has been written and submitted to the town clerk.

New Business:

1. 2026 Meeting Dates: By consensus, the meeting dates for the Commission will continue to be on the third Monday of the month; if said Monday is a holiday, the meeting will be held on the following day, Tuesday.

Communications:

1. Area Inland Wetlands Roundtable Discussion: Roundtable discussions for local Inland Wetlands commission members continue and our members are encouraged to attend.

Routing Sheets: None.

Burz made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.; seconded by Sinclair; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary