

Town of Canaan
Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 20, 2026

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

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Burdick at 7:12 p.m. Minutes of March 16, 2026 were reviewed. Sinclair made motion to approve minutes as presented; seconded by Van Gulick; approved unanimously.

Old Business:

1. Housatonic Railroad Herbicide Spraying Update: No update.

2. Planning for Town Street Tree Management: Discussion took place regarding the Commission's commitment to assist the Highway Department in developing a management plan for the monitoring and maintenance of street trees along town roads. It was reiterated from last month's meeting at which Bruce Bennett attended, that it is considered crucial for a Town to demonstrate due diligence in regards to developing a plan to identify potential hazardous trees. Members agreed to continue taking a preliminary inventory of town trees and noting those presenting possible liability. Detrimental vines will also be noted. The following roads were assigned: Steep Road/Wangum Lake Road (Burz); Amy Road (Kelsey); Beebe Hill (south of Route 7) and 6-Rod Road (Burdick); Page Road (Van Gulick).

3. Appointment of Regular Commission Member: Sinclair has written memo to Selectmen recommending that Van Gulick be appointed a regular member to the Commission. Sinclair will follow up on appointment. Sinclair will ask Karl Munson and Van Gulick will ask Maria Grusauskas about becoming alternate members.

4. Cobble Road Hollenbeck River Bridge: Van Gulick confirmed that the bridge has recently been totally closed to traffic and that the repaired portion of Cobble Road is holding up quite well. Additional stones have recently been deposited on the upgraded section.

New Business:

1. Tinker Brook Beaver Issue: Burdick voiced concerned that beavers continue to obstruct the culvert under Route 126 at Tinker Brook that is causing a rise in the water table on the upstream (south) side of Route 126. Kelsey agreed to share this concern with First Selectman Barger who previously had informed Kelsey that this portion of Route 126 is scheduled for repair work in 2027. Members concurred that it would prove beneficial to incorporate additional beaver-exclusion measures at the time of the culvert replacement.

2. Water Diversion from Stream Discussion: Burz inquired regarding the Commission's position on water diversion from streams. Consensus was that certain restrictions might apply (e.g. quantity, duration, timing). Burdick will attempt to contact DEEP to obtain clarification on the permissibility and possible restrictions of said activity.

3. Commission Member Training: Kelsey agreed to research recently enacted requirements regarding mandatory training for all Inland Wetland commission members. Said information will be available at the next meeting of the Commission.

Routing Sheets: none.

Communications:

1. Aquarion Water Company: A letter was received from Aquarion in which the Commission was thanked for its role in water protection. A new online resource is being made available by Aquarion to assist commissions in their efforts to protect water resources.

Sinclair made a motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.; seconded by Van Gulick; approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary