

Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission  
Minutes of Regular Meeting May 18, 2026

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

Others Present: Cynthia Williamson, Mark Picton, Donna Heinz, Pat Hackett (engineer)

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.. Minutes of April 20, 2026 were reviewed. Sinclair made motion to accept minutes as presented; seconded by Burz; passed unanimously. Motion made by Kelsey to change order of agenda to accommodate guests; seconded by Burz; passed unanimously.

**New Business:**

**1. Williamson Inquiry Regarding Construction Plans at 9 Prospect Street.** Cynthia Williamson is in process of purchasing the parsonage property at 9 Prospect Street. A letter was provided by the Falls Village Congregational Church (current owners) appointing Williamson to serve as agent for the Church. Hackett (engineer for Williamson) provided plans showing location of a replacement septic system, drainage upgrades, house addition and garage. Kelsey commented that the forested area between the area of proposed activities and the watercourse serve a protective buffer for the watercourse. Hackett said the soils in this general area are “strange” and can vary within relatively limited areas. Three percolation tests had been conducted; soils closer to brook were poorer than the two closer to Prospect Street. The current drain would be removed and relocated/replaced to circumvent proposed structures; drainage alterations will not contribute to additional waterflow entering the watercourse. Hackett has submitted plans to Torrington Area Health District showing location of a new primary septic system and fields; it is only necessary to show the primary system as it is considered a “repair”. The plan calls for a 1,250 gallon tank. Williamson will proceed in filing an application for said activities. Subsequent to completion of said application, members will individually visit the site and the application added to the agenda for the June 15th meeting.

**Old Business:**

- 1. Railroad Spraying:** DOT has not yet received an updated spraying plan from Housatonic Railroad.
- 2. Commission Member Appointment:** Burdick had not been able to contact Marleen Van Gulick regarding the need to be a registered voter in order to serve on boards and commissions. Sinclair will contact Karl Munson to see if he would be willing to serve.
- 3. Street Tree Inventory:** Burz has completed the inventory of Steep Road and Wangum Road; Kelsey has completed Amy Road. The following roads were assigned: 1) Burdick: 6-Rod Road and Beebe Hill; 2) Kelsey: Page Road; 3) Burz: Cobble Road. Sand Road and Music Mountain Road remain on the “To Do” list.
- 4. Watercourse Water Diversion:** Burdick has spoken with Bruce Bennett who will be providing Burdick with a contact person at DEEP.
- 5. Tinker Brook Culvert Repair:** Kelsey has spoken with First Selectman Barger regarding the Commission’s concerns about the rising water table associated with Tinker Brook on Route 126 between Johnson and Amy Roads. Barger requested that a communication be sent him regarding said concerns so he can relay them to DOT in preparation of their anticipated road work scheduled for 2027. Burdick made motion that Kelsey prepare a draft communication to

be reviewed by members and subsequently forwarded to Barger; seconded by Sinclair; approved unanimously.

**6. Cobble Road Bridge over Hollenbeck:** No update.

**7. Commission Member Training:** Burz queried about the statutory requirement regarding 8 hours of mandatory commission member training. Kelsey will provide members with applicable information.

**New Business (continued)**

**2. Holcomb Farm Conservation Easements:** Sinclair informed Commission that the Holcomb Farm has been preserved with conservation easements donated by both Flaton and Sinclairs on adjoining properties. The single approved building lot has been purchased by neighboring landowners. Members expressed their gratitude to Sinclair for facilitating this preservation of critical lands associated with Wangum Brook.

**Routing Sheets: None.**

**Communications:**

**1. Connecticut Land Conservation Council:** A thank you note was received in regards to the Commission's recent donation.

Sinclair made a motion to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.; seconded by Burz; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Kelsey".

Susan Kelsey, secretary