

Town of Canaan
Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
June 15, 2026

Members Present: Mark Burdick, Susan Kelsey, Ellery Sinclair (FaceTime)

Others Present: Pat Hackett, engineer

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Burdick at 7:11 p.m. Minutes of May 18, 2026 were reviewed. Sinclair made a motion to approve minutes as presented; seconded by Burdick; passed unanimously. By consensus, agenda order was adjusted to accommodate Hackett.

Old Business:

1. 9 Prospect Street (Falls Village Congregational Church parsonage property): Hackett presented revised septic plans for the repair of the current system; TAHD required additional square footage to be added to the original fields to meet requirements for the potential of 5 bedrooms. The revision calls for an additional 6 foot trench and said revision received approval by the TAHD on 6-15-2026. The plan for drainage of the site remains the same. No formal application was submitted. Hackett explained that since this proposal is considered a repair, no plans for a reserve system need to be approved. Julie Prue, town sanitarian, will need to see the completed survey showing the proposed lot line adjustment prior to final adjustment and P&Z approval of such.

2. Railroad Herbicide Spraying: No update. Sinclair will follow up with Bennett.

3. New Commission Members: Karl Munson has declined to become a member of the Commission; Mark Gozonsky has expressed interest in serving. Sinclair also forwarded the name of Elizabeth Bock as a potential member. Members agreed that before moving forward with recommending new members, there needs to be clarification regarding Marlene's eligibility to serve on the commission; members acknowledged she is a great asset to the Commission. Burdick will contact Marlene; Kelsey will talk with Selectman Barger and Sinclair will update Gozonsky of the situation. Members are encouraged to continue thinking of potential members.

4. Member Certification: Kelsey informed members that only one member of the Commission is required to be certified through the DEEP training course. Kelsey plans on taking the training.

5. Tinker Brook Memo: Kelsey had written a draft memo to the Board of Selectmen describing the concerns of the Commission in regards to the beaver activity at Tinker Brook on Route 126 between Amy and Johnson Roads. Sinclair made a motion that the memo be sent to the selectmen; seconded by Burdick; approved unanimously.

6. Town Street Tree Inventory: Burz has completed the inventory for Cobble Road. Kelsey will try to conduct an inventory of Page Road prior to the next meeting.

7. Water Diversion Inquiry: Bruce Bennett has information regarding State water diversion policies and will forward said information to Burdick.

New Business:

1. Coolidge Property: Members discussed the Coolidge Subdivision on Beebe Hill. Kelsey will ask Carol Flaton, a resident of Sharon who has protected several large acreages in the area, for advice.

Routing Sheets: None.

Communications:

1. Resilient Forestry Practices Grant: A grant is available through the State of CT Urban and Community Forestry Program for forestry management on municipal properties; deadline is August 31, 2026. Kelsey will attempt to get a complete listing of Town owned properties to ascertain if any might be appropriate for forestry management.

Sinclair made a motion to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.; seconded by Burdick; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Kelsey, secretary