

Town of Canaan
Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
August 17, 2026

Members Present: Mark Burdick, Brant Burz, Ellery Sinclair
Public Present: John Harney, Martin Hagen

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Minutes of July 27, 2026 were reviewed. Sinclair made a motion to accept the minutes as presented; seconded by Burz; passed unanimously.

Public Input: None

New Business:

1. Application, William Cox, 185 Route 63: An application, along with a check for \$135 was received for bank stabilization to occur on a portion of 18+/- acres abutting the Hollenbeck River. John Harney, representing Cox, discussed with Commission members erosion issues due to unstabilized embankment bordering the Hollenbeck River. Plans titled "Shoreline Stabilization Plan" by Bill Colby, Engineering and consulting LLC", dated 7-6-26, were reviewed by Commission members. The work is to be conducted by Steve Dean and is to include riprapping of embankment to a 2:1 slope, that will prevent undermining of bank at house location and bank erosion along Hollenbeck River; riprapping will stabilize soil movement due to effects of surface water and seasonal high water table. Sinclair moved to accept application for review; seconded by Burz; passed unanimously. Harney recommended a site visit. Commission members will individually contact Harney (cell# 860.921.7910) and visit the site prior to next meeting on September 21, 2026.

Old Business:

- 1. Street Tree Inventory Update:** None
- 2. State Statutes Regarding Commission Members:** Burdick will contact First Selectman Dave Barger for input. Kelsey is also researching the issue.
- 3. Highlands Conservation Grant/Coolidge Farm Subdivision:** Discussion occurred regarding the 2022 reauthorization of the Highlands Conservation Act that allows for municipalities to directly access funding for conservation. Burdick explained that under this grant, the municipality (Town of Canaan – Falls Village) would purchase the property through grant funding. Burdick will continue discussions with Julia Rogers, HVA Conservation Programs Director, to gather more information.
- 4. Railroad Herbicide Spraying:** No update.
- 5. Forestry Resiliency Grant for Municipal Properties:** Kelsey is researching town properties.
- 6. Miller Application, 64 Music Mountain Road:** There has been no update of submitted application to repair a culvert and stabilize stream. Burdick has emailed Miller a list of engineers and will additionally email engineer Bill Colby.

Routing Sheets: None.

Communication: None.

Sinclair made motion to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.; seconded by Burz; passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Brant Burz, acting secretary