



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes - April 1, 2026 - Meeting - Goshen Town Hall Conference Room and Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: Iain Kinsella - Chair, called the April 1, 2026, meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Present at Goshen Town Hall Conference Room: Iain Kinsella-Chair and Paul Gallo-Vice Chair

Present on ZOOM: Cindy Barrett, Annette Lott, and Sue Rinaldi

Excused: Jason Masi

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the March 4, 2026, meeting were emailed for review **Paul Gallo made a motion to accept the minutes, and it was seconded by Laura Saucier-Krukar. The motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE: Iain reported that a letter was received dated March 2026 from **Aquarion Water Company** regarding the 16th annual Aquarion Environmental Champion Awards which offers the chance to honor businesses, non-profit organizations, adults and students for their outstanding volunteer efforts in conserving and improving our natural environment and to receive grants. Iain read the letter to the members, the deadline for submissions is May 8, 2026, and the awards will be done on June 6, 2026, at the Beardsley Zoo. Submissions are welcome. Their website for additional information is www.aquarionwater.com/environment/environmental-champion-awards

OLD BUSINESS:

Torrington Water Company:

- No report on the new bridge installation at this meeting. Iain will continue to report at the next meeting.
- Iain reported the update that on March 6, 2026, **Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)** did post a draft decision and then posted their final decision on March 25, 2026, about approving the acquisition of **Aquarion Water Company** by **Regional Water Authority (RWA)**. Iain noted that he will report on future steps from the other conservation organizations regarding this. Iain noted that all of the information is available online regarding this.

Trail Maintenance Report:

- No report this month on Town Hill Trail.
- Cindy reported that she visited the East Street North Trail on March 25, to check on the pond which was still frozen. No activity in the wood duck boxes was noted while there but it was noted that a no littering sign needs to be done properly for posting on the fence.



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Bantam Lake watershed project status: No email alerts to report on this month.

Goshen Town Topics:

- Deadline for the next submission is May 18, 2026. Laura will work on an article.
- Iain will be drafting an article on the **Open Space Plan**. He would also like to get an article done on the bridge replacements in the Goshen Town Topics as soon as they are installed. Members were encouraged to work on articles of interest for future submissions.

Goshen Open Space Plan - Process and Resources:

- Iain reported that the Commission will report the process we used with the 2026 update and where the sources of information we used came from in order to provide clarification for the next update.

Goshen Town Hall Planting Beds: Work will be done on the beds as early as possible and a date will be arranged to do the clean up via email. Mulch was discussed for this year and how much will be needed. Iain will check the beds after the meeting. Garret Harlow will be contacted regarding delivery of any mulch - 2 yards possibly is needed. It was well mulched in 2024. Cindy will check the Pollinator Garden and it was mulched lightly last summer. Laura noted that most bee species are ground nesting and like bare patches of ground for nesting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Iain updated members on the preservation efforts of Camp Strang - the Boy Scout camp in Goshen - by the combined efforts of the **Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC)**, **Goshen Land Trust**, and the **Town of Goshen**. Iain noted that NCLC is also working on helping other Boy Scout Camps in the state to place the camps in permanent protection but to be able to be used as camps as they were designed.
- This is an ongoing process Iain explained and as a member of the **Goshen Land Trust** he will keep the Commission and the First Selectman updated.
- Paul asked if the pollinator garden might be enlarged. Discussion was had by members.

NEXT MEETING - May 6, 2026 at 6:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Gallo and seconded by Sue Rinaldi at 6:52 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Barrett
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Received 04/07/2026 10:53 a.m.
Attest *Michelle Parnis*
Goshen Town Clerk
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