



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes - June 3, 2026 - Meeting - Goshen Town Hall Conference Room and Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: Iain Kinsella - Chair, called the June 3, 2026, meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Present on ZOOM: Cindy Barrett, Annette Lott, and Jason Masi **Excused:** Sue Rinaldi

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the May 6, 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 the following:

- No correspondence in the mailbox.
- 2 emails were received from **Aquarion Water Company** and will be covered under Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS:

Torrington Water Company:

- Iain reviewed that the acquisition of **Aquarion Water Company** was approved by **Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)**. **RWA** acquired **Aquarion Water Company** and formed **Aquarion Water Authority (AWA)**.
- Iain noted that at our May meeting an email had been sent on April 22, 2026, to First Selectman Seth Breakell from David J. Borowy, Board Chair, Aquarion Water Authority. The email was read to members and is as follows:

"Dear First Selectman Breakell, I hope you are doing well. I am writing as a follow-up to the March 12 communication to formally notify you, in accordance with the statutory requirement, that the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) has approved the ownership and operation of Aquarion Water Company by the Aquarion Water Authority (AWA).

With this approval, the appointment process for your municipality's representative to the Aquarion Regional Water District (the "Aquarion District") Representative Policy Board (RPB) may now move forward. As you know, the RPB will play a key role in selecting the District's AWA Authority board members.

We recognize that this process has generated a great deal of discussion across Aquarion's service territory, and we are committed to working collaboratively with you and other municipalities to help establish the RPB as smoothly and efficiently as possible.



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Appointment Authority and Process

As an appointing authority under the statute, your municipality is responsible for selecting one representative to serve on the Aquarion District's Representative Policy Board. Appointments should be made by the chief elected official or governing body, consistent with your local procedures, and transmitted in writing once finalized.

The appointments are intended to reflect:

1. Municipal representation and accountability, ensuring that participating towns have a direct voice in governance;
2. Relevant experience or expertise, including, but not limited to, public administration, finance, engineering, environmental policy, water resource management, law, or utility operations;
3. A commitment to regional collaboration, recognizing that the authority will operate on behalf of multiple municipalities and ratepayers; and
4. The ability to fulfill responsibilities, including acting in the best interests of the authority and its customers.

Terms and Expectations:

Members will serve for a defined term consistent with the enabling statute (generally staggered to ensure continuity). RPB members are expected to:

1. Attend and participate in regular board and committee meetings;
2. Make final decisions on major capital projects, rates, land use transactions, and acquisitions over \$1.5 million, following public hearings;
3. Review capital and operating budgets and the multi-year model;
4. Uphold applicable ethics and conflict-of-interest standards; and
5. Support the long-term reliability, affordability, and stewardship of the water system.

Next Steps:

To support timely organization of the authority and continuity of operations, we kindly ask that your municipality submit its appointment within 30 days of this notice, if practicable.

We would be happy to meet with you and your team to walk through the appointment process in more detail, discuss the roles and responsibilities of board members, and answer any questions or concerns you may have. Please feel free to reach out at your convenience to coordinate a time to connect.

We truly appreciate your partnership and engagement as we take this important next step together.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

David J. Borowy, Board Chair, Aquarion Water Authority"



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- Iain noted that on May 5, 2026, a follow up email regarding the Aquarion District's Representative Policy Board member appointment was received and two reference documents related to the role were shared - RPB Member FAQs and a sample of RWA RPB Member Job Description.
- Iain will forward the emails to members.
- Iain spoke with First Selectman Breakell and volunteered to be on the Board. He was appointed to the position at the Town meeting held on May 27, 2026, Wednesday.

Trail Maintenance Report:

- Report from Joe Welsh on the Town Hill Trail that some work does need to be done with cutting.
- Iain reported that he had been in contact with Joe Welsh and they are still waiting on the completed fabrication of the replacement bridges.

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

Goshen Town Topics:

- Laura submitted her article for the June issue on May 18, and thanks were given.
- Deadline for the next submission is August 17, 2026. Previous articles will be reviewed and see if there is one to submit. Discussion was had on possibilities.

Goshen Open Space Plan - Process and Resources:

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

Goshen Town Hall Planting Beds:

- Iain shared that weeding will be done on the front borders after the meeting tonight.
- Cindy checked the Pollinator Garden, mulch was good, it will be weeded and plants planted.

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)**. 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. Public access is key to grant process.
- This is an ongoing process Iain explained and the grant process is due to start soon.
- Iain updated that **Goshen Land Trust** is working with **Nature Conservancy** regarding the northeast section of Goshen where the Water Company property is and adjacent properties, and possible land acquisitions for connectivity and land preservation.
- **NEXT MEETING - August 5, 2026, at 6:30 PM No meeting in July.**

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Gallo, and seconded by Laura Saucier-Krukar at 6:54 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Barrett
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Received June 9 2026 9:37a
[Signature]
Goshen Town Clerk
ASST