



GOSHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes - September 2, 2026 - Meeting - Goshen Town Hall Conference Room and Zoom

CALL TO ORDER: Iain Kinsella - Chair, called the September 2, 2026, meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

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

Excused: Annette Lott, Jason Masi, and Sue Rinaldi

APPROVAL of MINUTES:

The minutes of the August 5, 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.
- Received from **First Selectman, Seth Breakell**, an email from George Logan regarding the scheduling of the first meeting towards end of September of the **Aquarion District's Representative Policy Board (RPB)** to which Iain was elected.
- Received from **Garret Harlow, PLA, Public Works Supervisor, Tree Warden, Town of Goshen**, an email from **David Beers**, Service Forester – Western District, Private and Municipal Lands Program, Division of Forestry, Bureau of Natural Resources, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, dated 8/24, which Iain read to the members regarding grant opportunity : “The US Forest Service Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Grant is a rare opportunity for municipalities to secure funding for the acquisition of forested property.

Some salient features of the grant:

- Application must be for a tract greater than 5 acres in size, at least 75% forested, and currently has the potential for future conversion to non-forest uses if not acquired by the town
- Application can include a tract that is comprised of multiple parcels and/or multiple ownerships
- Future public access is required for all projects
- Up to \$600,000 provided for land acquisition and transactional costs
- This is a competitive cost-share (matching) grant”
- Grant deadline, unfortunately, is the end of the October and the process would have to include a Town Vote. Iain will respond to Garrett regarding this. Discussion was had.



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- Received from **Shilo Garceau, Emergency Management Director, Town of Goshen**, an email dated 8/31, regarding an event being planned in collaboration with **First Selectman, Seth Breakell**. This event, "**Goshen Fall Festival: Connecting our Community**", is being held on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 3 to 6 PM at the Goshen Fairgrounds. Email was read to members. Discussion was had and Iain will attending to man the Conservation Commission table and Cindy will share ideas for a decorated tree to be included in the Tree Raffle. Iain will RSVP to Shilo.

OLD BUSINESS:

Torrington Water Company:

- Iain reported that the final 2 bridges are supposed to be installed next Saturday, September 12, if all goes according to the plan.

Trail Maintenance Report:

- No report from Joe Welsh for Town Hill trail but Paul reported that on a recent visit to it that the trailhead needs some major cutting back due to the excessive growth.
- No reports for other trails at this meeting.

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

Goshen Town Topics:

- Iain submitted his bio to Virginia Perry for the next issue. Members were asked to write a bio for future submissions. Bridge article will be done as well.

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 was done on the front borders after the June and August meetings, and tonight members will do a another weeding of the entire front border.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Paul Gallo made a motion, and it was seconded by Cindy Barrett, to have Iain Kinsella, Chair, draft a letter of support to DEEP for the purchase of the O'Leary property in Goshen by The Goshen Land Trust. The motion carried.**

- NEXT MEETING - October 7, 2026, at 6:30 PM.**

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Laura Saucier-Krukar, and seconded by Paul Gallo at 6:52 p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Barrett
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Received *September 10, 2026 10:32 AM*
Attest *Michelle Kinsella*
Goshen Town Clerk
AKS