



Town of Sherman
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Members Present: William (Bill) McCann (Chair), Michele MacKinnon (Vice Chair - Remote), Breezy Grenier, Connor McGowan, Colette Shulman, Lauren Weber

Members Absent: Jen Freed, Jill Humphreys, Anne Weisberg

Other Attendees: None

Call to Order: Chairman B. McCann called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

C. Shulman made a motion to approve the June 11, 2025 minutes.

Seconded by: C. McGowan

Vote: Unanimous For

Correspondence:

B. McCann shared correspondence sent to the commission by Melissa Cook and Bob Demchuk (7 Big Trail Extension). She wrote, "I am so grateful to the SCC for the Sherman hiking guide. I knew some of the trails but I am inspired to see more! My first mission is to go hear the Bobolinks on Cozier Hill. This is one more reason why we love living in Sherman. What a great resource you have created." B. McCann responded to her note, "Hello Melissa, thank you for your note. We are pleased you are enjoying the new Sherman Hiking Trails booklet. We had been planning to put it together for a couple of years now so we are thrilled it is complete. Glad to hear it has given you some inspiration to try out some new trails. It is having the same effect on us as well. Happy Trails." M. Cook in turn replied to B. McCann that she had gone out, taken photos of the Bobolinks and posted them to the town's Facebook page with a link to the hiking guide on the town's website.

The commission was pleased to receive this positive feedback and engagement with the new guide and hopes the impact it had on M. Cook is shared by many others. Printed photos from her Facebook post were shared with the commission. B. Grenier advised there is a company that is requesting to have wheelchair bound or of similar handicap accessible status wear something

when they go hiking to document the trail terrain. They are trying to incorporate more data to get a widescale survey to detect what is wheelchair accessible. A short discussion ensued about nearby trails, bridges and parks that have some wheelchair accessible points of interest.

New Business:

a) Weed Warriors Rescheduling

The dates for the upcoming Weed Warriors sessions have been rescheduled to July 19th and August 23rd. B. McCann sent the new dates out to everyone on the Weed Warriors list. C. McGowan asked if there was some preliminary work he could do this weekend as he will not be available for the first session. B. McCann advised that he could work between the backstop and tennis court where there are two areas that are visible and were not addressed last year. B. Grenier inquired if they needed more cardboard. Per B. McCann it is not necessary yet. The cardboard that was placed previously has kept most of those areas clear.

b) Pollinator Garden Sign Ups & Mulching Spreading

M. MacKinnon had shared the pollinator garden schedule with the commission. B. McCann asked if more than one person could sign up for the same day. Per M. MacKinnon, it is possible for five people to sign up for the same day for the early slots in June and July. Currently, for August and September it is set up for a single slot. She said, however, if someone is already signed up for that day it is okay for another individual to go as well. B. McCann wanted to know if the slot is only on Saturdays. M. MacKinnon advised it is just a placeholder for the week and if someone wished to go on a Tuesday, for example, that would be fine.

C. McGowan needs a truck in order to deliver the mulch. L. Weber asked if a pick-up truck could work. C. McGowan said it would be possible with a couple of trips. M. MacKinnon had suggested Beatty Construction during the last meeting. B. Grenier suggested asking Public Works for assistance. C. McGowan will approach Don Lowe (First Selectman) to ascertain if Public Works can assist. If they are unable, he and L. Weber will connect with Beatty Construction remaining another possible option.

c) Stonewall Mapping Continued

B. McCann had planned on continuing the discussion about LIDAR and how to divide Sherman into small enough sections to get higher resolutions. The initial maps were generated by J. Humphreys. B. McCann rolled out the maps for commission review. C. Shulman asked if the maps had been shared with the Inland Wetlands Commission and the Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z). B. McCann said he had intended to share the maps with P&Z and the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC). However, he had wanted to speak with J. Humphreys again prior to approaching P&Z to understand what details/resolution could be provided.

B. McCann believes what would be helpful for P&Z, is to have Sherman divided into perhaps ten sections. He envisioned having each section as a file that could be pulled up to zoom-in for greater detail when assessing potential development. B. McCann will reach out to P&Z regardless to inquire as to how they would like to see it divided. B. McCann went on to add that

he had shown the maps to NCLC two to three weeks ago. They were pleased with the maps but also have access to LIDAR mapping capabilities. They had no specific requests at this time, however, if they can they will utilize the finalized maps.

C. Shulman asked if B. McCann foresees this map displayed in the main conference room at Town Hall if there is space. Her thought was to train the science teacher at the Sherman School to read the maps and bring the students in to learn about the maps and how they are generated by LIDAR. She believes it to be a great teaching opportunity as today's students will use LIDAR and other technologies in the future. B. McCann said if there was space that was the intention.

Old Business:

a) Wildlife Corridor Mapping Update

C. McGowan said J. Humphreys had sent him the layer he needed for the streets and roads. He is now working on generating the script that runs the least cost path analysis. B. McCann asked if it will cover the entire map of Sherman. C. McGowan said yes and there will be heat maps of the wildlife corridors with a guide. B. McCann said once he has the file from C. McGowan he will print views of the maps. C. McGowan said they can continue to update the file in the future as necessary. He is done with the topography, the streets, property lines, etc., which leaves only the least cost path analysis to complete.

M. MacKinnon **made a motion** to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: B. Grenier

Vote: Unanimous For

B. McCann adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza

Next monthly meeting: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m., Mallory Town Hall