



Town of Sherman
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Members Present: William (Bill) McCann (Chair), Michele MacKinnon (Vice Chair - Remote), Jill Humphreys, Colette Shulman, Lauren Weber

Members Absent: Jen Freed, Breezy Grenier, Connor McGowan, Anne Weisberg

Other Attendees: None

Call to Order: Chairman B. McCann called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

L. Weber made a motion to approve the July 9, 2025 minutes.

Seconded by: C. Shulman

Vote: Unanimous For

Correspondence:

L. Weber shared feedback from the Community Expo post-event survey with the commissioners. The survey was filled out by organizations that participated in the event which took place in May 2025. Survey respondents were asked to: rate their satisfaction with the event (from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest); advise if they benefitted from the event and if so, how; share their biggest takeaway from the event; comment on publicity efforts; provide suggestions for improvement and advise if they would participate again in the event. Overall feedback was favorable.

B. McCann recommended making a list of the most common suggestions. L. Weber will pull the list together. Discussion ensued about the most common suggestion to provide food at the event and whether to invite food trucks or approach the new owner of the Sherman IGA. M. MacKinnon suggested asking the Boy Scouts to grill hamburgers/hotdogs with proceeds going to their organization. L. Weber suggested a popcorn or cotton candy stand for a 'fair like' attraction. Increased publicity for the event was another common survey comment with respect to driving additional attendance.

Questions were posed in the survey by a few participants about the possibility of inviting organizations in to sell items. B. McCann felt it should remain an educational event with non-profit, cultural organizations. The non-profit organizations can sell items (e.g., baked goods, plants, show tickets, etc.) or can direct attendees to their websites. M. MacKinnon felt that selling in general could be a slippery slope particularly as certain organizations have a dual cultural and business role owing to the nature of their organization. L. Weber perceived it as potentially beneficial as some survey participants asked for the inclusion of for-profit businesses to draw in more foot traffic and suggested perhaps only Sherman-based businesses. B. McCann recommended that the two commissions (Conservation Commission and Commission for the Arts) revisit the stated event mission as a guide for making this determination moving forward.

New Business:

a) Annual Report Discussion

B. McCann circulated a draft copy of the annual report for review. Commissioners concurred it included all significant activities undertaken by the commission for the report period. B. McCann will submit the final report this Friday.

b) New Date for Doug Tallamy Program – November 5th

M. MacKinnon advised Doug Tallamy requested the program date change from October 23rd to November 5th as he had accidentally double-booked himself. As a result, he offered not to charge a fee for the program. M. MacKinnon said Cathy Hagadorn at Deer Pond inquired about joint promotions as they are putting together their publicity calendar together for November. M. MacKinnon and B. McCann think each sponsor should conduct their own promotions as has been done previously. L. Weber will post the event to the commission's Facebook page. M. MacKinnon said it will be easier to have Ashleigh Blake (Executive Director, Sherman Library) do the introduction at the beginning of the program. B. McCann will call her to discuss and find out when the library's flyer will be ready for sharing.

Old Business:

a) Wildlife Corridor Mapping Update

No update at this time.

b) Weed Warrior Event Update

Per B. McCann his wife came the Thursday before to do some clean-up on her own. He was joined that Saturday only by John & Masumi O'Donnell. There have been no additional volunteer sign-ups and the time prior there were only two participants. As regards the Saturday clean-up, they did not have time to put down tarps or cardboard. B. McCann will need help to complete that task in the next few weekends. He will check with C. McGowan to see if he can assist. C. Shulman asked if they still need cardboard. B. McCann indicated they did. He said that while cardboard is not optimal for nutrients to return to the soil, that is not the goal at this time, and it is the best way to prevent Japanese knotweed re-growth. Once the cardboard has been

placed Public Works will place mulch on top. There is not a lot of area to cover as they only had two cutting sessions this year with few participants.

C. Shulman inquired if the addressed areas had remained clear. B. McCann said areas that were previously mulched required nominal maintenance. He went on to add that a 50-foot row of winged euonymus was removed by Public Works near the river. J. Humphreys said there could be an erosion issue if it is not replaced with something else. B. McCann will contact Kris Fazzone (Supervisor, Public Works) to ascertain the plan for that area. B. McCann shared that Public Works had also cleared Japanese knotweed around the garden and additionally cleared a phragmite group behind the tennis court along with a multi-flora rose group. Public Works also took out another third of the remaining half of Japanese knotweed behind the baseball backstop.

L. Weber asked if there was grant money available to combat invasive species. B. McCann offered to check with Don Lowe (First Selectman) if he knew of any such grants. J. Humphreys suggested inquiring with the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Urban Forestry Program. Lastly, J. Humphreys advised there is Tree of Heaven growing on the rocky slope above the docks at the beach with some trees completely filled with invasive spotted lanternfly. According to B. McCann natural predators of the spotted lanternfly include yellow jackets, bats, cardinals and catbirds.

With no further commission business to conduct, C. Shulman **made a motion** to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: J. Humphreys

Vote: Unanimous For

B. McCann adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza
Next monthly meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m., Mallory Town Hall