



**Town of Sherman**  
**Conservation Commission**  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 8, 2026

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

**Members Absent:** Jen Freed, Breezy Grenier

**Other Attendees:** Michael Conforti

**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 February 11, 2026 minutes.

**Seconded by:** M. MacKinnon

**Vote For:** All in favor

**Correspondence:**

The commission received an email inquiry regarding Weed Warriors to which B. McCann replied with information about when, where and how the sessions are conducted.

**New Business:**

**a) Commissioner Updates**

B. McCann provided an update on potential new members. B. McCann will send an email to other members about participation.

**b) Dragonfly Program Review**

M. MacKinnon said they had 20-25 attendees at the event and learned a lot from the speaker, Christine Cook. She added that the program was well received and several people stayed afterwards to talk with the speaker. C. Shulman shared that Christine Cook is a landscape designer and those that stayed at the end got to see all of her pictures of various dragonflies – which have different habitats and actually migrate.

### **c) Sherman Community Expo (continued)**

L. Weber just sent out another email reminder for participants. Only 10 have signed up so far and they need another 10 to meet last year's level. She said it is typical though to have some sign up late. Thus, booths have not been assigned yet. B. McCann anticipates that more will sign up to participate given the positive post-event survey results from last year.

L. Weber advised the logo was redesigned for use in all promotional materials. She will distribute a list of where posters/flyers are already posted and the list of where the road signs need to go. With respect to food options at the expo, L. Weber said the ice cream truck is coming this year and the Daily Market has agreed to also selling some sort of specific event meal. C. Shulman inquired if there will be anything to raffle. M. MacKinnon will put together a culinary planter with herbs and greens and will obtain raffle tickets. L. Weber has Weed Warriors t-shirts that can be added to the raffle and shared that the Commission for the Arts will do a scavenger hunt. The commission agreed to have a sign-up for Weed Warriors, invasive plants booklets, the commission's hiking guide and printed Northwest Conservation District (NWCD) posters at the booth.

### **d) Hiking Trails Program with NCLC (tentative date 6/4)**

B. McCann said the original plan was to hold the program on a Saturday. However, the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC) is unable to do so. Therefore, the program will be held during the week on Thursday, June 4 at 6:00 p.m. and will consist of a presentation. The guided hike component right after the presentation – that was previously discussed – will not occur. The program will be conducted at the Sherman Library. At the program presenters will announce when hikes of the various trails will be offered as a post-event follow-up.

### **Old Business:**

#### **a) Wildlife Corridor Mapping Update**

No update at this time.

### **Other:**

Per J. Humphreys the state has a resilient forestry grant to which towns can apply. The state requested a couple of months ago that interested towns reach out but she was not aware of the grant at that time. Her recommendation is to contact Dave Beers (the service forester for this region) who can do a general assessment of town forests at Volunteer Field and at Colonial Park down to the beach. He will provide free guidance on how to make the forest area healthier through mostly invasives management.

For grant they will award monies if the town is managing the forest. The grant is for getting work done on that same acreage. The work could include invasive removal and they will do tree management (thinning out the trees; removing unhealthy trees). She estimates it would take about a month to get D. Beers out here. B. McCann will reach out to Don Lowe (First

Selectman) about the initiative. J. Humphreys said proposals are due early June and shared what the state considers eligible practices.

A short discussion ensued about existing and potential Eagle Scout projects. J. Humphreys said the Eagle Scouts are currently building bird houses. She thinks it might be a good future project for them to assist with making new trails at Volunteer Field. M. MacKinnon asked about bird houses for the pollinator garden. J. Humphreys will advise when the Eagle Scouts have the bird houses ready.

Additional commission discussion centered on the Spotted Lanternfly – natural preventions and waning population.

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

**Seconded by:** L. Weber

**Vote:** All in favor.

**B. McCann adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza  
Next monthly meeting: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m., Mallory Town Hall