



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

Members Present: William (Bill) McCann (Chair), Michele MacKinnon (Vice Chair – via ZOOM), Jill Humphreys, Lauren Weber

Members Absent: Michael Conforti, Jen Freed, Breezy Grenier

Other Attendees: Pat Bailey

Call to Order: Chairman B. McCann called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

L. Weber made a motion to approve the June 10, 2026 minutes.

Seconded by: J. Humphreys

Vote For: All in favor

The commission held a moment of silence in memoriam for fellow commissioner Colette Shulman.

Correspondence:

Sherman resident Geoff Gwyther emailed the commission on June 24th regarding Munch Meadow. He posed the following questions: “How about turning Munch Meadow into a pollinator garden. Monarch destination? Any thoughts?”

M. MacKinnon will respond that Munch Meadow was considered as a potential site, however, due to the safety concerns with crossing Route 37 it was decided that it was not a suitable location. She will update him about the existing pollinator garden at Veteran’s Field.

New Business:

a) Commission Membership

B. McCann approached Don Lowe (First Selectman) who will put out a call for new membership in his column. L Weber will also post a request for new members on the commission's Facebook page. B. McCann asked that current members also look to their networks to solicit potential candidates. Currently, the commission stands at seven members and per town ordinance can have up to nine members.

b) NCLC Update

B. McCann is on the Naromi Council of the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC). He shared with the commission that NCLC is moving forward with planning the expanded trail systems on the property off Route 39 North. There is an issue with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) with respect to direct access via Route 39 North and the establishment of a parking area. The new plan is to access the trail system via Edmonds Road that includes reworking the road in addition to adding split rail fences and live screening. The only other option is to access via Gaylord Road in New Milford which is not optimal for Sherman residents.

There is maintenance ongoing on properties that have significant poison ivy and downed tree branches. They are working with a tree expert to assess and advise on the best manner of removal.

c) Garden Update

Commissioners highlighted in their discussion the new bench that was installed by M. Conforti at the pollinator garden. He also spread the original mulch that was there and will contact David Jellen at Happy Farms for more mulch. M. MacKinnon shared that she was uncertain about the effectiveness of the experiment of placing fencing around the shrubs. B. McCann will go down in two weeks to cut down the burdock and will evaluate.

B. McCann added that he thinks it would be appropriate now to put a more formal sign at the garden. He will approach John Cody (Land Use Enforcement Officer) and Fran Frattini (Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission) to understand the proper process. L Weber suggested a permanent plaque or stone (to sit on) in the garden in memory of Colette. B. McCann also suggested planting a tree (perhaps an oak) either near the backstop or on the peninsula by the garden. B. McCann will speak to D. Lowe regarding permission and how to coordinate with Public Works.

Old Business:

a) Weed Warrior Dates

Scheduling dates is a work in progress at this time. B. McCann shared that former commissioner C. McGowan expressed to him that he still wishes to participate in Weed Warriors.

Other:

P. Bailey recommended commissioners explore joining the Connecticut Butterfly Association as individuals. The association will have a walk coming up on July 10th in Southbury (Bent of the

River). P. Bailey also shared the Connecticut Butterfly Atlas with commissioners and highlighted the Question Mark butterfly which has been seen near our area. She added the Greenwich Audubon will do a butterfly count this Saturday.

L Weber had a suggestion to start a quarterly newsletter that can be sent to the commission's email base. The topic will be added to the agenda for discussion next month.

J. Humphreys **made a motion** to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: L. Weber

Vote: All in favor.

B. McCann adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza

Next monthly meeting: Wednesday, August 12, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m., Mallory Town Hall