Town of Sherman
Conservation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 7, 2026

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

Members Absent: None

Other Attendees: Christine Campbell, Dana Vargo

Call to Order: Chairman B. McCann called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

M. Conforti made a motion to approve the September 2, 2026 minutes with suggested edit.

Seconded by: L. Weber

Vote For: All in favor

Correspondence:

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) sent an email to B. McCann about protecting and conserving farmland in Connecticut, encouraging the commission to attend upcoming webinars that they are hosting.

New Business:

a) **New Members**

B. McCann invited both potential candidates to the commission to introduce themselves. C. Campbell said she was invited to run the New Fairfield/Sherman Animal Welfare Society (NFSAW) animal rescue. She re-opened it after the rescue's response to a local hoarding situation forced it to shut down for a period of time. She spends significant time outdoors and has a passion for conservation and animal rights. D. Vargo shared she moved to Sherman recently. She was formerly a flower farmer and works now at Scott's Nursery and Landscaping in New

Milford. She started a community garden in her previous home town and served on the local Farmers Advisory Committee.

b) Newtown Rodenticide Policy Discussion Continued

B. McCann explained that the commission was approached by the Newtown Conservation Commission about adopting a rodenticide policy in Sherman. He circulated for review Newtown's adopted rodenticide policy. B. McCann believes it should be okay as-is but wants the commission to weigh in with any changes needed for adoption in Sherman. Holly Kocet (Chair, Newtown Conservation Commission) reached out to B. McCann to see if Sherman had adopted the policy, adding that Bethel is the latest Connecticut town to adopt such a policy.

J. Humphreys queried if the commission knows how prevalent the use of these traps is by the town. B. McCann will reach out to the town's administration to find out. B. McCann next advised the commission that he spoke with both Cathy Hagadorn (Director, Deer Pond Farm) and Debbie Corcione (Director, The Wildlife-Line) and they are both in support of any efforts in this area. Both will write letters of support with D. Corcione sharing that she has personally witnessed the death of a fox brought to them after it was poisoned by this rodenticide. D. Corcione may also be able to have Christine from *A Place for Hope* come to whichever meeting the commission plans to present the policy. J. Humphreys said cost and ease might be driving the decision to use these boxes and would need to be considered as a factor in influencing change.

B. McCann wants to raise the matter at the next Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting, which is scheduled for November 19. The commission discussed potentially playing the video at that meeting. M. MacKinnon recommended to send the video to the BOS before the meeting instead of playing at the meeting due to its disturbing content. She also said it might help make the case if the food places in town could be encouraged to switch and work with the town to get a group discount using the alternative (contraceptive) rodenticide product. C. Campbell said they use the contraceptive rodenticide at the shelter to protect their animals. Once it is confirmed that discussion of the policy will be on the next BOS agenda, L. Weber will put on the commission's Facebook page.

c) Garden Benches and Sign

B. McCann spoke with Fran Frattini (Chair, Park and Recreation Commission) about the pollinator garden, which this commission started four years ago. He shared with her that the commission wants to add two benches and dedicate them to former commissioners and would like her commission's permission. The Park and Recreation Commission (Park and Rec) agreed at their meeting to allow the installation of the benches. B. McCann also spoke with F. Frattini about a sign for the garden similar to what is installed at Munch Meadow. F. Frattini said they may have money in their budget for the sign and will advise. B. McCann will provide sign language to Park and Rec.

M. Conforti asked about if the benches should be secured with an eyehook and chain with a padlock (rather than rebar) once approved and if the positions are chosen. B. McCann and M. MacKinnon mapped out where to put the first bench. M. Conforti will bring the second bench over this week and will obtain costs for the materials to secure the bench.

B. McCann shared plaque ideas (font, text and background color, material, wording, etc.) with the other commissioners. Base plaque materials include: stainless steel, brass, and aluminum. M. Conforti cautioned about screw material compatibility and risk of corrosion. He recommended a plaque size no larger than 3x7 inches. B. McCann will see if the plaques' cost can be covered by the town general fund. The commission had a brief discussion about which commissioners would be honored on the benches, ultimately concurring that former commissioners Colette Shulman and Rolf Martin would be honored in memoriam.

L. Weber reminded members that the commission had considered having the Commission for the Arts (CFTA) create the sign's design and suggested possibly burnishing. M. MacKinnon suggested having the CFTA maybe paint a butterfly and bird on the garden sign template provided by Park and Rec. The commission agreed that it would be a good idea. Once a general design is provided by Park and Rec it will be shared with the CFTA to propose how to embellish. B. McCann will ask Park and Rec who made the sign and who installed it. L. Weber will reach out to Linda Hubbard (Vice Chair, CFTA) to initiate the conversation.

d) Natural Resources Inventory Update for 2028

B. McCann advised that the commission is supposed to update the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) every decade. This is only a 'heads up' that the commission will work on it next year. Commission briefly discussed what contents may have changed since the last iteration.

e) 2027 Meeting Dates

M. Conforti **made a motion** to approve the new set of 2027 Sherman Conservation Commission meetings on the first Wednesday of every month.

Seconded by: J. Humphreys

Vote For: All in Favor

Old Business:

a) Weed Warriors: Last Cut of Season Complete

Per B. McCann Weed Warriors only conducted one cut this season. He will have to get in touch with Public Works to pick up what was cut. B. McCann also shared that he spoke to the local scout master at Farm Day about helping Weed Warriors and he agreed that it would help the scouts with their service hours and badges. The commission went on to discuss potentially participating in Farm Day next year.

<u>Other:</u>

B. McCann reminded everyone that M. MacKinnon is delivering a program about invasive plants on Saturday, October 17 at the Sherman Library at 11:00 a.m. M. MacKinnon will send the flyer to L. Weber to put on Facebook. M. MacKinnon mentioned that at 6:00 p.m. tomorrow evening the library will host a presentation about the Spotted Lanternfly, which should also be informative.

L. Weber **made a motion** to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by: M. Conforti

Vote For: All in favor.

B. McCann adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Aruza
Next monthly meeting: Wednesday, November 4, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m., Mallory Town Hall