



Thomaston Greenway Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: August 18, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m. (called to order at 7:02 p.m.)

Location: Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One

Attendance

Members Present: Amanda Burch (Chair), Erin Boccardi (Vice Chair), Kelly Quinn, Patrick Quinn, Cassie Gorman (Secretary)

Members Absent: Michael Sweeney, Lori Stevens

Call to Order

Chair Amanda Burch called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Kelly Quinn, seconded by Erin Boccardi, to table approval of the July 1, 2025 minutes due to them not being available for review. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

Build Grant (formerly RAISE Grant):

- The RAISE Grant has been renamed the BUILD Grant, and funds are due to be released.
- Engineering work for the regional Naugatuck Valley Greenway is expected to begin October 1, 2025, with one engineering firm overseeing all four municipal segments (Naugatuck, Waterbury, Watertown, Thomaston).
- Thomaston’s portion includes design and engineering for East Main and Elm Street to Watertown Road, and Watertown Road to the Old Waterbury Road trailhead, extending to Branch Brook.
- The Watertown–Thomaston section (Watertown Road to WPCA) is a priority and may begin construction in Spring 2026, pending bid completion.
- Funding for the Watertown-Thomaston section is confirmed, and bid preparation is anticipated by January 2026, to allow work as soon as ground conditions permit.
- The section under Reynolds Bridge and near the Route 8 ramps was discussed for safety and design challenges; members noted the need for flashing safety lights.

Grant Opportunities and Project Updates:

- The Committee discussed future grant applications for trail enhancements and recreation funding.
- The Recreational Trails Grant and micro-grant programs will reopen soon.
- Discussion centered on whether the committee should apply again for small-scale funding (under \$250,000) or focus on tangible, shovel-ready projects.

- Members agreed that public education and engagement remain important to counter misinformation about Greenway routes.

New Business

Merchandise Update:

- Merchandise prices have increased slightly:
 - T-shirts: \$13.50 each
 - Sweatshirts: \$34.00 each
- Members reviewed size selections and payment arrangements.
- Committee agreed to proceed with ordering and paying for their own shirts and sweatshirts for members.
- Cassie and Erin will purchase additional youth shirts personally.

Event Participation:

Public Relations and Social Media:

- Members noted that personal names and committee contact links were shared on social media.
- The committee expressed appreciation for residents who continue to show positive support and emphasized maintaining respectful, factual communication online.

Tabled Items

The following agenda items were tabled until the next meeting:

- Site Walk
- Endorsement Letters
- Car Show Participation (revisit if appropriate)

Public Comment

No members of the public were present for comment.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Gorman

Secretary, Thomaston Greenway Committee