

Thomaston Greenway Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: December 3, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One

Attendance

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

Members Absent: Kelly Quinn, Michael Sweeney

Guests

A member of the public was present.

Call to Order

Chair Amanda Burch called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Erin Boccardi, seconded by Patrick Quinn to accept the minutes as presented from October 2025. Motion carried unanimously. Lori abstained.

Grant Updates

NVCOG / DEEP Rec Trails Grant:

- Thomaston is submitting another DEEP Rec Trails grant (via Tony, through Land Use).
- This is the same program that previously awarded the committee \$150,000.

DOT / Transportation Alternatives Program:

- Funding may have been identified for the DOT/LOTICIP project tied to the \$4.5 million grant and the previously approved \$450,000 bond.
- The project relates to the segment from Tony's to Elm Street.

Echo Lake to Transfer Station Segment:

- The Thomaston section remains fully funded.
- However, the Watertown portion lost its federal RAISE funding.
- Their delay prevents Thomaston from advancing its connected segment.



Endorsement Letters

- Committees expecting to give letters include:
 - Beautification Committee
 - Seth Thomas Park Revitalization Committee
- Additional letters may be forthcoming.

Easement & Tax Abatement Program

- This remains a standing agenda item.
- Easement costs in many cases can be funded through the grants themselves.
- The state also offers programs to offset municipal responsibility for easement-related abatements.

Site Walk Coordination

- Contact is needed with the Waterbury Greenway Committee.
- Potential contact: Judy Mancini (to be confirmed).
- Waterbury continues to receive major state investments to support their Greenway expansion.

Poster Board & Event Materials

- Existing display materials from NVCOG are stored in the Land Use office.

Merchandise Update

- Merchandise is ready for pickup at Robot Branding in Torrington.
- Items are expected to be available for the January meeting.

Town Meeting Debrief (Opera House Meeting)

Committee members discussed the recent town meeting regarding the Elm Street Greenway segment:

- Members expressed disappointment with the outcome and the amount of misinformation the committee had to correct.
- The Elm Street routing has been in planning for at least three years and was publicly voted on previously.
- Concerns were raised regarding procedural irregularities, particularly early voting before the call of vote.
- The committee discussed safety issues that will arise if a gap exists between Greenway phases.
- The committee discussed ways to rebuild momentum following the failed vote.

Parade Float

- The committee decided not to participate in the "Light Up the Town" parade this year.
- Ideas for a future float were briefly discussed and will be revisited.

Meeting Schedule for Next Year

- The committee finalized and will submit its 2026 meeting schedule.
- Meetings were moved to the second Thursday.

Committee Membership Update

- Hillary Combs was approved by the BOS in September but was not sworn in due to a pending party registration, clarification is needed to resolve this error and confirm appropriate membership.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassie Gorman

Secretary, Thomaston Greenway Committee