

Town of Winchester
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
September 1, 2026 - 5:00 PM
Town of Winchester Town Hall
338 Main Street – 2nd Floor – P. Francis Hicks Conference Room
MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Renee Waldron calls the meeting to order at 5:11 PM. In attendance: Renee Waldron, Jen Perga, Addie Mehl, and Sally Chesney. Absent: Amanda Hill and Tom Carter

2. Public Comment - None

3. Agenda Review - No changes; motion by Jen, seconded by Sally. Vote: Unanimous.

4. Minutes Approval - No changes to August 2026 minutes; motion by Sally, seconded by Jen. Vote: Unanimous.

5. New Business

A. Fall Festival:

Renee is emailing Candace to sign up for the festival- will ask if WCC and WLT can be next to each other. Sally will see if she can borrow invasive posters. Sally will also bring invasive handouts, and Renee will bring tent, table, chairs. Addie will again bring something for kids and button maker.

B. Fall Speaker: :

Tentative date for fall speaker series- Nov. 3. Jen will talk to Todd from RRD1 about potentially speaking about trash and recycling options at the transfer station. Considered having a speaker about bear to go with trash talk- may be better for spring. Tom will reach out to Cassie to speak about mouse/rats and rodenticide issues.

6. Old Business

A. Town seeking RFPs for invasive removal:

No update

B. WCC budget funds & WCC treasurer:

No need for a treasurer as receipts will be reimbursed by town- there is no keeping of money. Will keep track of receipts and funds at the bottom of minutes.

C. Supply Inventory/Needs & Pack WCC Bins:

Renee's husband brought supplies. They were placed on the third floor where they will be stored. Not sure the exact location so they were left in a conference room for now, and Renee emailed Terry and left a note. Supplies include grabbers, vests, gloves, materials, banner, etc.

D. Plan for Fall Clean-Up- updated poster and volunteer form:

Addie to update flyer with basic information before distributing. Will also create Facebook events and posts in FB groups. Will buy pizza from several different local businesses to support and make sure there is plenty of pizza- have run low in years prior. Jen updated the volunteer waiver. Tom spoke to Jeremy in Planning Department about creating maps to disburse to attendees for more area coverage.

E. Banning Rodenticide:

Tom attended meeting about banning rodenticides with supporting documentation from Cassie. Paul Harrington seemed to be in support of banning them townwide. RatX and MouseX, though effective as alternatives, may not be humane.

F. Multi-town Japanese Knotweed/Invasive Plant Management:

Knotheads working on model. Addie is working with Steep Rock Association and Town of Washington to address knotweed in that area. May have insight and materials to use based on their initiative.

G. Sue Grossman and BAR grant updates:

Tabling for now

H. Promoting WCC Events, Facebook, & invasive info:

Waiting to do invasive posts until next spring when more timely. May have the opportunity to devise community action plans around them. Some other potential event ideas: walk & talks, river surveying. Addie to create flyer/post inviting people to come to WCC meetings or join the board.

7. **Communications:** N/A

8. **Other Business:**

A. Jen continues to stay updated on meetings with town about people dumping trash and large items and riding motor vehicles like dirtbikes and ATVs on both town and private properties. Paul is currently negotiating with USA Hauling for 2X year bulk pick-up- should be funded by nip money and help alleviate some of the problems.

9. **Adjourn**

Jen moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:03 PM, which was seconded by Sally and unanimously approved by the board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Addie Mehl, Secretary