Town of Winchester
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
October 6, 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 5:07 PM. In attendance: Renee Waldron, Jen Perga, Addie Mehl, Sally Chesney, and Thomas Carter. 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 September 2026 minutes; motion by Sally, seconded by Tom. Vote: Unanimous.

5. **New Business**

A. Fall Speaker:
Both speakers have confirmed for the Fall Speaker event to take place on November 3 at Town Hall- Todd and Cassandra. Jen and Tom will reach out to speakers for bios and send them to Addie so she can make a flyer. Event will start at 5:30 to provide attendees with the opportunity to come see a shorter regular scheduled WCC meeting at 5. Tom will have to leave at 6 for EDC meeting so he will present his speaker, Cassandra, first.

B. Oct 8th Town Meeting Re: illegal dumping, etc:
Jen will be there on behalf of landowners and WLT. Discussions are still taking place on potentially having several bulk trash pickup days throughout the year- would help mitigate dumping issues.

6. **Old Business**

A. Town seeking RFPs for invasive removal:
Jen received communication that the town will be conducting interviews seeking qualified individuals/groups who could possibly address invasive plant issues in town. Spot open for someone on the conservation commission to sit in with the interview committee. Tom and Sally are interested.

B. Supply Inventory/Needs & Pack WCC Bins:
Supplies are now being stored on the 4th floor of Town Hall where BOE used to be housed. Possibly need more grabbers after cleanup.

C. Plan for Fall Clean-Up- Updated Poster & Volunteer Form:
Topic tabled for next meeting. Took place on October 3rd. Great turnout of about 40 people. Addie counted 40 grain bags full of trash in the truck.

D. Banning Rodenticide
Tom reported that the town passed a policy banning the use of anticoagulant rodenticides on town properties. Not sure yet of plans for alternatives.

E. 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.

F. 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. Will post educational topics as they come up within town and welcomes others to share ideas.

7. **Communications:**
   a. Tom Carter- Rodenticide Meeting Email
   b. SustainableCT- Bronze Status for Winsted - town interns worked hard to prepare all the materials needed for accreditation. Tom received news.
   c. Fall Foliage Festival - Cancelled, disappointing but no update.

8. **Other Business:**

A. Wonder if some event can be held for town officials, board, and committee members to get together so everyone can meet and get to know each other and be encouraged to collaborate on projects. Tom talked about an event that was held in years past where community members could join in tours and workshops of departments. It's how he got involved. Maybe something like this again to encourage more community engagement?

9. **Adjourn**
Jen moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 PM, which was seconded by Sally and unanimously approved by the board.

Respectfully Submitted,
Addie Mehl, Secretary