

WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING Town Fields 7E & 7F, Northford Road Wallingford, CT

Saturday, March 14, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Chair Conor Makepeace, Jeff Borne, Mike Miller, Dianne Saunders, Erik Severson

Not present: James Loughlin, Jim Pyskaty, Bruce Conroy

Other: no persons from the public attended.

Note: *Italics used in text below represent action items.*

Chair Makepeace called the Meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. indicating that the purpose of the Special Meeting was to observe site conditions in these fields.

The Commission walked the perimeters and centers of both Fields 7E and 7F to determine field conditions and observed the following:

- Both fields were heavily vegetated with no open soil; some areas had healed furrows (bumpy).
- In Field 7F, the southern end had an unpermitted trail from the woods on the southern border, through the middle of the field; rocks had been buried in the surface of the field from the southern end, for a considerable distance into the field, presumably to ‘armor’ the trail due through the wetland area.
- There was a small outcrop of autumn olive saplings 2-3” in diameter in the northwest corner of Field 7F.
- Shrubs 3’-6’ tall, with stems about ½”-1.5” in diameter, are starting to colonize Field 7F.
- The culvert between the fields was intact; water was flowing freely through it (has been there for many decades from prior owner).
- Field 7E was heavily dominated by mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*), an aggressive invasive plant, and goldenrod (tall, well established).
- There was a piece of furniture dumped in the driveway of Field 7E (a commissioner was tasked with reporting that to Public Works).

There was consensus that the fields are overgrown (as a result of lack of access during the recent Northford Road bridge replacement, and subsequent lack of mowing) and need to be mowed this year to bring them back into manageable herbaceous cover. *Erin O’Hare, Environmental Planner, will be asked to inquire whether Public Works can mow fields 7E & 7 F and 8B. Commissioner Saunders will ask the professional consultant for 7E & 7F for restrictive dates for mowing (wildlife concerns) and inform Erin.*

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Saunders, Commissioner