

WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES of REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, September 10, 2026
Room 315, Town Hall, 45 South Main St, Wallingford CT

Meeting called to order: 6:04 pm by Vice-Chairman Bruce Conroy.

Present: Commissioners Jack Murphy, James Pyskaty, Dianne Saunders, and Erik Severson; Environmental Planner, Sebastian Velez.

Not present: Commissioners Jeff Borne, James Loughlin, Conor Makepeace, Mike Miller.
There were no members of the public present.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Regular meetings, July 9, 2026, and August 13, 2026 – tabled.
2. **TRANSITION PROJECT REPORT** – J. Loughlin not present. The Commission asked Sebastian Velez to share his environmentally related interests with the group. Sebastian discussed his interest in invasive plants, his strong interest in wetlands and planning. The Commission acknowledged it may take a while for Sebastian to become acclimated to the Inland Wetlands work here, before he can commit much time to Conservation Commission work. In the meantime, he will inform the Commission on the which Conservation Commission projects have been approved recently by Inland Wetlands, so the Commission will know which projects are ok to move forward.
3. **LIST OF TASKS IN PROCESS** – Commissioners received a DRAFT list of tasks that have been proposed in theory/discussed/approved and for ‘homework’, will consider the items for possible ranking of priority and disposition, given the change in staff. No discussion of tasks or priorities was held at this time, pending everyone’s consideration of the list, available resources, time, budget, etc.
4. **PROPERTY MONITORING REPORTS** – tabled to the October meeting.
 - a. Fresh Meadows – J. Borne
 - b. Beseck Meadow – M. Miller
 - c. 1254 Whirlwind Hill Rd., - J. Pyskaty
 - d. 205 Main St, Yalesville – B. Conroy
 - e. **Other per motion:**
MOTION by J. Pyskaty, seconded by J. Murphy, passed unanimously: to discuss the invasive spotted lanternflies at this meeting (not on agenda). Vice-Chair Conroy reported there are trees of heaven, the host species for spotted lanternflies (slf’s) at Marcus Cooke Park. Other commissioners have seen the slf’s in various locations around town. Vice-Chair Conroy suggested we have a work party to treat the trees of heaven. Consensus was reached that the appropriate method for volunteers for the trees that are at open space properties is to use the hack-and-squirt control method and apply an over-the-counter full-strength triclopyr herbicide. The timing window for this is late summer (after flowering) to early Fall before the trees stop photosynthesizing. D. Saunders will circulate an email to coordinate teams/times for a work party. One of the Stewards has already been working on this at Tyler Mill Preserve.
5. **FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**
 - a. Bid status - Staff – S. Velez reported that one batch of fields has gone out to bid (4A, 4C, 19A, 8B) and bids are due by October 8th at 2 pm. Sebastian reported he is also reviewing another draft from the Water Division.
6. **REPORTS / CORRESPONDENCE**
 - a. Trails Work Group (‘TWG’) – no report received; no one present from TWG.
 - b. Other - Staff – no other reports
7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** pursuant to CGS §1-200(6)(D) discussion of the lease, sale, or purchase of real estate:

MOTION: E. Severson made a motion at 7:17 pm, seconded by J. Pyskaty, to go into executive session; passed unanimously.

MOTION: E. Severson made a motion at 7:24 pm, seconded by J. Pyskaty, to come out of executive session; passed unanimously.

8. **NEXT MEETING** – October 8, 2026, 6 p.m.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: E. Severson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm, seconded by J. Pyskaty; passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by D. Saunders