

**TOWN OF GRANBY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
June 10, 2025**

PRESENT: Kara Marshall, Kent McCord, Zachary Donais, Will Madsen, Jim Szipszky; David Desiderato and Andrew Small arrived after the meeting was called to order

OTHERS PRESENT: None

1. CALL TO ORDER

K. Marshall called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MAY 13, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

K. Marshall read J. Szipszky's correction regarding Barndoor Hills Farmland... "J. Szipszky suggested IPM and NRCS conservation practices including the use of crop rotation and cover crops practices used at Holcomb Farm and on the fields they lease from the town and Granby Land Trust..."

K. Marshall noted corrections to the minutes are to be made verbally during the meeting. In addition, the Town Clerk is working on some guidance for town committees and facilitation rules. The minutes should not be a transcript, but capture points discussed, who was in attendance, motions made, etc.

On a Motion by Z. Donais, seconded by W. Madsen, the minutes were approved unanimously as corrected.

4. CONTINUED FARM LEASE CONVERSATION

- K. Marshall noted Agricultural Commission Chairman Heather Lombardo is stepping down.
- J. Szipszky reported he and K. Marshall met with the Agricultural Commission in April. They are working together on leasing guidelines, such as prudent practices, etc. He distributed a working draft for commissioners to review. A final document is not expected until the end of the year.
- J. Szipszky discussed programs that pay to preserve farmland. He noted a program exists through the CT Department of Agriculture as well as other private programs and would like this topic to become a long-term dialogue.
- K. Marshall would like additional information regarding these programs and inquired if a representative from one of them could speak at an upcoming conservation meeting. J. Szipszky will look into this.

5. IDENTIFY REPRESENTATIVE FOR POCD (PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT)

K. Marshall stated the POCD will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month beginning September 23rd and they are looking for a member of the Conservation Commission to join the committee. She noted there will be public workshops requiring attendance as well. J. Szipszky volunteered.

6. ENERGY CONSERVATION

- K. McCord reported he, J. Szkipszky and D. Desiderato met with Town Manager Mike Walsh regarding energy conservation. The town renegotiated for a longer-term supply contract for electricity that includes some commitment to renewable energy.
- The Town Manager initiated working with the Connecticut Green Bank to assess solar on town buildings. He would like to see solar on one or two town buildings and noted the DPW garage and the church building at Holcomb Farm as possibilities.
- K. McCord will connect with Jenny Emery regarding the church building. He would also like to meet with the Town Manager again regarding energy efficiency measures.
- K. Marshall noted Eversource has some new weatherization incentives for buildings and she will provide the contact information of those involved.

7. MEETING TOPICS FOR JULY

- Continue Farm Lease Wording
- Energy Conservation
- Composting
- CGS 7-131A (Index of Wetlands, etc.)

8. FINAL COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- J. Szipszky reported McLean received over half of their fundraising goal for a new building on Barndoor Hills Road.
- D. Desiderato has an "Unwanted" column coming up in The Drummer entitled How Can I Help, focusing on the downside of the fogging industry.
- K. Marshall stated there are some constraints (technical and room space) of holding a meeting in-person so holding a hybrid meeting would be difficult. D. Desiderato would like to have one in-person meeting this year. K. McCord agreed and would like some in-person meetings with the ability to call-in if possible. An in-person meeting will be held in September.
- W. Madsen noted he reviewed the statute on municipalities establishment of conservation commissions. It noted conservation commissions will keep "an index of all open areas, public or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps, and other wetlands...." J. Szkipszky will contact Eric Luckingbeal for any information he may have regarding this.
- W. Madsen will hold a library discussion on September 16th regarding composting and hopes to have a representative from Blue Earth attend.

9. ADJOURN

ON A MOTION BY D. Desiderato, seconded by J. Szipszky, the commission voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kane
Recording Secretary