

## **Shutesbury Conservation Commission**

**Minutes – January 8, 2026**

Approved – February 12, 2026

*Virtual Meeting*

**Commissioners Present:** Beth Willson (Chair), Mare Fox, Scott Kahan

**Commissioners Absent:** Robert Douglas

**Other Staff Present:** Matteo Pangallo (Land Use Clerk)

**Others Present:** Tom Siefert, Jeffrey Gagner, Donald Fletcher, Eric Stocker

**Call to Order:** 7:03pm

This meeting is being recorded and all members are participating remotely.

### **Comments from the Chair**

Willson reminds the Commissioners about the culvert grant community dinner meeting on Monday with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The meeting has been posted as a meeting of the Conservation Commission and Willson will keep minutes.

Willson reminds the Commissioners about the monthly hikes co-sponsored by the Commission and the Recreation Committee and the flyer has gone out for it.

Willson thanks the Commissioners for signing the National Grid comment letter and notes that Pangallo has sent it out.

### **Review and vote on minutes of December 11, 2025**

Motion to approve the minutes of December 11, 2025: Kahan; sccond: Fox. Vote: Kahan -aye; Fox - aye; Willson - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

### **Site Visits Update**

Willson notes the only visit was to Camel Brook and that will be discussed later on the agenda.

Willson met with the Town Librarian and a Fuss and O'Neill architect to discuss the fact that the site of the new library is not yet ready for a Certificate of Compliance. More vegetation needs to grow in and the sedimentation basins need to be operating correctly.

### **Land Management Update**

Kahan shares that the Invitation for Bids for the South Brook Trails project has been finalized. Pangallo confirms that the notice has been posted and the deadline is February 12.

Willson reports that the Footit property project was approved as eligible for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding by the Community Preservation Committee and she is consulting with Habitat for Humanity and Kestrel Land Trust to prepare the CPA grant application before the February 9 deadline.

**Review and vote on Certificate of Compliance request from Department of Conservation and Recreation for Camel Brook Bridge Repairs Project, Quabbin Watershed (Parcel N-88), DEP #286-0299**

Willson reports that the Commission did the site visit for the Certificate of Compliance request on January 5. She shares the draft Certificate of Compliance and reviews its contents.

No members of the Commission have questions.

Motion to approve the Certificate of Compliance for the Department of Conservation and Recreation for Camel Brook Bridge Repairs Project, Quabbin Watershed (Parcel N-88), DEP #286-0299: Kahan; second: Fox. Vote: Kahan - aye; Fox - aye; Willson - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

Willson notes that there are questions for DCR from residents about a forestry project off Cornwell Project and that the Commission never received a Forest Cutting Plan for the project. She asks Jeffrey Gagner if Richard McClean is the best person to contact about this. Gagner confirms that McClean is the forester in the area and also recommends contacting McClean's supervisor, Ken Kanfield, about it.

Willson asks Donald Fletcher if he has any questions about the project and he says he has none.

Willson states that the information about the cutting project has been unclear and seems different from how it has been done in the past. She would like the opportunity for the Commission to comment on the plan and its impact on wetlands as in the past. Fletcher is worried about whether DCR is meeting its responsibilities to protect wetlands and seasonal streams in the project area. He is also concerned about whether DCR has changed its policies about where it does forestry operations and whether it submits Cutting Plans to the Conservation Commission for comment.

**Discussion of December 18, 2025 letter from National Grid regarding Notification of Utility Maintenance Activities near 248 Montague Road**

Willson shares the December 18, 2025 letter from National Grid regarding Notification of Utility Maintenance Activities near 248 Montague Road and reviews its contents. She notes that she reached out to the applicant to confirm that the pole in question is being put back in the same location as the previous pole. She therefore considers the project to be exempt from filing.

Motion to determine that the proposed National Grid pole project near 248 Montague Road does not need to file for a permit: Fox; second: Kahan. Vote: Fox - aye; Kahan - aye; Willson - aye. The motion is approved unanimously.

### **Selection of Conservation Commission representative on the Stormwater Mitigation and Implementation Committee**

Willson explains that the Storm Water Task Force has been made into a permanent Town committee with new membership and the Commission has a seat on it. Willson notes that Douglas had been a member of the Task Force and has agreed to serve on the Committee.

Motion to select Robert Douglas as the Conservation Commission's representative on the Stormwater Mitigation and Implementation Committee: Fox; second: Kahan. Discussion: Fox asks how long the Committee will be in force. Willson is not sure if the appointment would be for one year or three and will ask Douglas at the next Commission meeting. Vote: Fox - aye; Kahan - aye; Willson - aye. The motion is approved unanimously.

### **Wetland Bylaw Regulations revision discussion and vote**

Willson notes that she connected with Douglas and he has no concerns about the draft Regulations. She asks for any comments from the other Commissioners. There are no other comments. She adds that the Commission can revisit them as needed once they are implemented.

Motion to approve the Shutesbury General Wetland Bylaw Regulations as revised: Kahan; second: Fox. Vote: Kahan - aye; Fox - aye; Willson - aye. The motion is approved unanimously.

### **Unanticipated Business**

Fox notes that she will be unable to attend the February 12 meeting. She asks when the twice a month meetings start and Willson answers that it starts in April.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Kahan; second: Fox. Vote: Kahan - aye; Willson - aye. The motion is approved unanimously.

**Adjourned:** 7:42pm

**List of Documents Used:**

- Certificate of Compliance request from and draft Certificate of Compliance for Department of Conservation and Recreation for Camel Brook Bridge Repairs Project, Quabbin Watershed (Parcel N-88), DEP #286-0299
- December 18, 2025 letter from National Grid regarding Notification of Utility Maintenance Activities near 248 Montague Road
- Email regarding Conservation Commission representative on the Stormwater Mitigation and Implementation Committee
- Draft Wetland Bylaw Regulations