

Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission

April 7, 2026, 5:24 PM; 1049 Upper Cold River Road and Zoom

Attendees: Connie Youngstrom, Cynthia Thornton, Michelle Greene, Weezie Duda, Pam Darrow, Chris Clarke

Absent: Peter Grace

Members of the Public: Eldred French, Lily French

Minutes:

Item	Topic	Discussion:
1	Minutes	March 3, 2026 meeting minutes were approved.
2	Financials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No new expenses, \$3530 in reserves Discussion of items budgeted ahead - \$100 Times/AVCC \$300 Meg Madden, \$300 Pollinators, Green Up food and Wildlife Celebration ahead. Decision made to put off Caterpillar Lab and Pollinator Celebration until next year. It is hoped that Tiny Grant from AVCC we applied for will eliminate Pollinator expense.
3	Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eldred French, tree warden came per request to share his thoughts and observations on the upcoming Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation that will eventually kill most if not all ash trees. This invasive insect has no natural predators so their effect is devastating. Discussion covered many topics, including the need to inform both town officials and residents about the various ways to deal with dying trees or the use by homeowners of an injectable insecticide, which he did not recommend for wide use because of expense and effectiveness. He felt the town historically has effectively dealt with roadside dead trees of all types but acknowledged that once the EAB reached our town, there would be an increase in manpower needed. He will keep a close on ash damages. The cost of a bagged sugar maple tree to replace the dying one in the front triangle of the Meeting House will be approximately \$400. The SCC approved sharing the cost up to \$200. Connie is coordinating with MH and Greg MdGowen.
4	Plastic Bag/Soft Plastics Collection Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lily came to express concerns about the viability of the soft plastics recycling program, due to several factors. She did not feel she wanted to be the full-time coordinator and the SCC felt they could not devote enough additional volunteer manpower hours to this worthy project. It was noted that the program was so successful in Wallingford partially due to transfer station attendants directing residents on how to correctly sort plastic. It will be tabled at this time. Future articles in the TIMES or handouts at the dump can inform residents on how to turn soft plastic in themselves at Price Chopper/Market Basket
5	Green Up	Connie directed us to sign up for various tasks on the checklist developed through the years. No meeting again before May2.

		Checklist will be emailed to all SCC members. Please check to make sure this write has assignments correctly recorded.
	Wildlife Tracking Project Celebration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weezie reviewed the dates and outlined particulars of this event. Wednesday evening, May27 will have presentation of data on 5 yr tracking program and slide show, Keynote speaker Jens Hilke on Why conservation corridors are so crucial and how they contribute to ecological function, biologist and Mt Holly Conservation Trust member Kim Royer on conservation of local unfragmented forest tracts that impact our area, and biologist Bree Furfey on Update on Lynx in Vermont and the reintroduction of the catamount! Discussion on how to best get a good turnout. Weezie and Michelle will try to further refine the evening's activities and topics and discuss with Jens. Time is critical because of Times deadline.
6	Pollinator Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pam and Weezie shared the Tiny Grant application that requests \$ but also outlines the goals of the program and activities. Connie presented letter from the Historic Preservation Trust giving the approval for the project at Pierces.
7	Walks and Talks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living With Bears event March 13 was a huge success – library was filled to capacity Aug 29 has been confirmed with Meg Madden for a rorshawk (\$300 (\$300)
8	VT Conservation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion of the information session in Mt Holly that several SCC members attended. Consensus is that all were in support of the plan.
9	New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michelle noted that there are two vacancies on the SCC.
	Next Meeting	May5, 2026, 5:15pm, 1049 Upper Cold River Rd Meeting adjourned at 7:48pm

Minutes Submitted By: Louise Duda
Secretary SCC