

Meeting Minutes
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission
May 5, 2026; 5:15 PM; 1049 Upper Cold River Road

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

Absent: Peter Grace

Members of the Public: Linda Shelvey

Minutes:

Item	Topic	Discussion:
1	Minutes	April 7, 2026, meeting minutes were approved.
2	Financials	Reserves \$3,540.93, Budgeted, \$352.05 remaining with earmarked funds approaching \$0. Discussion on the use of reserve funds.
3	Wildlife Road Crossing Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We're seeing the negative impact on the flow of animals in documented wildlife road crossings from tree cutting for underground wire, logging, and development. Discussed how to alert landowners and town officials to these impacts. Subcommittee of Michelle, Linda, and Cynthia will set up a meeting with the Zoning Administrator and planning Commission to discuss incorporating tracking data into overlay map, with focus on pinch points in local and regional corridors, identify tree cover important to road crossings, and suggested changes to the previous overlay. Also to look at wording in new Town Plan Discussion of celebration of wildlife tracking project on May 27. Dinner 5:30 for speakers, town officials and committees, SCC members, trackers, Full program and dessert for town residents Weezie – buy ingredients for spaghetti sauce and meatballs, bread, parm cheese, butter. Make main meal. Rill - Cake Connie – flowers for table and salad Chris – prep bread Beverages – Cynthia Michelle – set up projector, window coverings, email another Save the Date Discussion of possible need to contact invitees via phone.
4	Green Up	<p>All felt smoothly run in spite of weather. Enthusiastic turnout. Frittata not a hit. Ran out of bags. List of Raffle prize awards needs to reach transfer station earlier to avoid delivery afterwards. Crown Pt Road and lower Upper Cold River not covered – SCC members to go out and complete? # more sandwich board signs needed – Weezie will check with Stash TY notes to raffle donators – Weezie Cynthia -Article to TIMES Connie, photos to Michelle and Cynthia Connie – call Pierces about further donations?</p>
5	Invasives	Pam has been hard at work on shrub invasives. Met with Alex Yuster from My Holly CC and they are working on combining workshops on chervil and barberry. Discussion of need to mow chervil at Osbourne property to prevent spread up and down Lincoln Hil – Possible SCC members with weed whackers?

6	Trees	Connie waiting to hear further from Greg McGowen. Chris reminded us to use form for purchases
7	Pollinator Garden aka Shrewsbury Native Plant Educational Garden	Rita received funding and resources from a grant from Master Gardeners. She and Pam have begun planting! The foundation created last fall worked out well. Expected funding from the AVCC Tiny Grant will flush out more \$ for Caterpillar Lab in 2027 and other plants/expenses. Consideration of supporting educational events of Doug Tallamy film this winter, speaker Spencer Hardy related to bees.
8	Welcome Bags	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will make sure EAB info in all bags • We will incorporate a follow-up call to bag receivers about a month post visit to check in.
9	Walks and Talks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Beaver Presentation – tabled for now • Possible Parker's Gore Presentation – Weezie will investigate. • Meg Madden Aug 29, 2026.
10	Plastic Bag/Soft Plastics Collection Program	Discussion moved to next meeting
11	Commission Openings	We discussed outreach to two potential members. Connie and Weezie will reach out in follow-up. A third interested member is not a full-time resident. Can she become a “minion” until such time that she lives here?
9	New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travis Hart is now the biologist assigned to Town Farm WMA, which will be part of an area called Coolidge West Management Area. Kiosk likely this summer.
	Next Meeting	June 2, 2026, 5:15pm 1049 Upper Cold River Rd

Minutes Submitted By: Louise Duda
Secretary SCC