

Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission
August 4, 2026; 5:15 PM; Town Office

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

Absent: Peter Grace

Members of the Public: Linda Shelvey, Katie Stiles

Minutes:

Item	Topic	Discussion:
1	Minutes	The June 2, 2026 Minutes were approved
2	Financials	Reserved fund - \$3589, Tiny Grant \$584.40, Budgeted \$516 (\$300 earmarked Meg Madden, \$50 AVCC in Oct) leaving \$166
3	Wildlife Road Crossings	The SCC is gathering info on how to best begin the next phase of our project, focusing on the use of culverts and bridges as wildlife road crossings. Katie Stiles gave an overview of her role at the RNRCD as well as an overview of the dam and culvert project. She informed us of plans that already outlined culvert data in the Cold River Corridor and the Tactical Basin Plan of Otter Creek Basin 3. She is happy to help us in any number of ways, including coordinating with Dan Cavoto or with Mt Holly on Rt 103 crossings, gathering data on priority culverts identified in our study in the NR Atlas, or providing help in how to make culvert assessments. Next steps: we decided that Linda will send us a list of high priority culverts as identified in the study for our review, followed up with a conversation with Jens on his recommendations on moving forward. Then we would like to meet with Dan to review his list of culverts and priorities.
4	Native Plant Educational Garden	Pathways are installed and many plants are flowering even in this first year! Garden Stakes have been ordered and received that will identify plants, and are being prepared by Master Gardeners. Pam, Rita, and Weezie visited a Caterpillar Lab in Hartland to get an idea of size and content for their visit in June 2027. Chris requested to have better communication about future Tiny Grant purchases
5	Master Naturalist Project	Connie talked to Melissa Green, Poultney, who was interested in starting a Master Naturalist Program in our area. She will pursue conversations with her about reducing possible costs if we can help facilitate this
6	Invasives	Pam was encouraged at how much parsnip is under control compared to past years. We will send TY note to the Wilson's who have really done a great job in mowing to remove parsnip, and Pam will present a SCC Tshirt to Mr Osborne for his help in managing spreading chervil
7	Trees	Weezie will forward Gary Salmon's located Ash tree inventory to SCC members and Eldred. She will see if Dan received a copy and see what his views are about how to handle the upcoming EAB infestation.

8	Welcome Bags	Two new residents received bags – people who hope to live here full time in the future.
9	Note Cards	Chris has cardstock and envelopes. She will print up more cards using the printer in the Town Office.
10	Walks and Talks	- Michelle reviewed attendance at 2026 W&Ts. Invisible Mammal film – 30+, Living with Bears 33, Wildlife Tracking Celebration, 45+, Dam Visit, 18. She noted that there are many new people and more kids and younger folks attending. - Meg Madden Aug 29 – Sign up slow so far. Weezie will push more publicity. We will scout viability of walk the week before. - The Native Plant folks wish to show a Doug Talamy film at the Library in November on why native plants are so important, and the Caterpillar Lab film on caterpillars in January/February. The later will cost \$75 from 2027 SCC funds. Weezie will contact Michelle about Library use when dates are better confirmed. - After a book discussion on Beavers and subsequent conversation with Spring Lake residents on beaver control, it might make a great W&T for beaver baffle expert to discuss pros and cons of various ways to manage lake levels. Weezie will follow up on this. - Cynthia will contact Travis Hart about the possibility of a W&T in the Town Farm WMA (October?) and possible topics to cover. - Connie mention Laura ? who might be a good person to lead a discussion about herbicide use on invasive plants
11	Commission Vacancies	It is confirmed that SCC members must be residents. There is an excellent future member who is interested for 2028. Another possible member might be best suited for SPC,
11	New Business	- Weezie will pass on an interesting link to Dan on road salt use in Chittenden County area and also gather info on how salt is used in our town - Shrewsbury Day Sept 13. Michelle will contact Betsey to let her know that since most of our membership will be out of town on that day, we will pass marching in the parade this year. - Members are encouraged to fill out the Local Hazard Mitigation Survey. Each of us can do it individually. On line- https://tinyurl.com/shrewsbury-lhmp26-survey2 A hard copy of the plan and survey can also be found at the Town Office. Must be completed by August 24.
	Next Meeting	Sept 1 at 5:15pm AT THE TOWN OFFICE. Cynthia will let the TIMES know of the location change.
	Adjournment	6:30 pm