

Meeting Minutes
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission
Aug 5, 2025; 5:15 PM; 450 Frank Lord Road

Attendees: Connie Youngstrom (remote), Cynthia Thornton, Michelle Greene, Weezie Duda, Pam Darrow, Linda Shelvey, Chris Clarke

Absent: Peter Grace

Members of the Public: None.

Minutes:

Item	Topic	Discussion:
1	Minutes	June 2025 meeting minutes were approved. • Motion made by Weezie, seconded by Pam. • All others approved.
2	Financials	Nothing has changed since the last report. After the \$300 is spent on the Mushroom Walk and Talk, there will be \$372.00 remaining.
3	Update of Town Plan	The group agreed that the SPC has reached out to all community members to gather more input than in the past. Cynthia reported back on the discussion held on Meadowlands about the difficulty of making a profit from agricultural lands, the mapping not being accurate, and the scenic value of open lands being an important side effect. Invasives on land left open and unattended will continue to proliferate.
4	Walks and Talks	• Mushroom Walk will be on August 30, 9-12:00. Location to be determined a week before and emailed to participants who sign up. Chris, Michelle and Todd, Diane, and Jeff plan on attending. Weezie will continue to advertise. • Scavenger Hunt renamed Autumn Treasures. Connie and Pam will help. The date will be Oct. 18th (only a sliver of a moon visible near sunrise on that day) with the replanning of the walk at Jockey Hill Farm with a focus on seed pods, galls, trees, etc.
5	Wildlife Tracking	Linda reviewed the data from the 2024-2025 tracking season, and she and Michelle outlined the next steps in discussion with Jens Hilke. Discussion followed on what we hope will be the outcome of the data and next steps in sharing it with the SPC, revising the Wildlife Corridor Overlay Map, and celebrating and sharing the info with the Town. Also, discussion took place on considering enforcement enhancements if needed.
6	Invasives Program	Pam shared photos of Wall Lettuce removal. We discussed looking into what is required for members to have authority to use an herbicide like Roundup painted on stumps of cut invasives for difficult to pull plants and shrubs. The knotweed problem was discussed again. Is a target area, like the top of Crown Point, feasible?
7	Pollinator Garden	Connie reported on a successful meeting of Lee Wilson, Margery Salmon, Rita Gylys, Pam Darrow, and Connie Youngstrom at Pierce's

		to prepare and plant a Pollinator Garden to serve as a model for others to emulate and as an educational tool. The Master Gardeners Rita and Margery will submit a request from the Garden in Every Town program for the 2026 year. The SCC will support their efforts with labor and future educational events and signage. This year the soil will be prepped with a layer of cardboard, composted horse manure, and leaves and twigs. Weezie will look into ways to load manure into pickup trucks to transport.
8	Master Naturalist Program	At this point, no one is taking the course in Middlebury or looking into trying to organize a program in southern Vermont.
9	Plast Bag/Soft Plastics Collection	We did not locate a person interested in manning such a program at the transfer station that would collect specific plastics to be recycled into benches that would be returned to the town. Connie will forward the Wallingford contact person to Weezie, who will then discuss the program with Bert and Jeremiah to get their feelings about the program's feasibility for Shrewsbury.
10	Gary's Grove Clean Up	Clean up of Gary's grove will be in October. Connie will send out potential dates.
11	New Business	• GMP has presented a plan to the Town on upgrading utility lines underground and this upgrade will now move forward. • Weezie discussed the potential erosion created by an unfinished logging operation. The logger said he would reseed the area. Garbage on Gaynor Road was brought to the attention of the Selectboard. • The Ash tree inventory workshop is on Aug 12 in Ludlow from 2-4. Weezie will contact Eldred French, tree warden, to see if he might be interested in attending with her. She will contact Margery Salmon to see if Gary's inventory is still available. • Plans were made for the SCC entry in the Shrewsbury Day Parade. A workday is planned for late afternoon Thursday, August 28. Pizza afterward. People should bring cardboard about 3'x4', leftover latex paint in colors that might work, and any brushes they might have on Aug 28.
	Next Meeting	Sept 2, 2025, 5:15 pm at Frank Lord Road
	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm • Motion was made by Weezie, seconded by Pam. • All approved

Minutes Prepared By: Louise Duda