

Unapproved Meeting Minutes  
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission  
September 1, 2026; 5:15 PM; Town Office

**Attendees:** Cynthia Thornton, Michelle Greene, Weezie Duda, Chris Clarke

**Absent:** Peter Grace, Pam Darrow, Connie Youngstrom

**Members of the Public:** Linda Shelvey, Laura Black

**Minutes:**

| Item | Topic                                         | Discussion:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| 1    | Minutes                                       | Aug 4, 2026 meeting minutes were approved.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 2    | Financials                                    | Reserves-\$3600.52 (\$585 left in Tiny Grant), Expenditure of \$1084.07, After AVCC dues are paid, \$165 remains in the 2026 Budget<br>Motion was made and approved to give Pam or Weezie authorization to use the remaining Tiny Grant funds held in the Reserves for the Shrewsbury Educational Native Plant Garden as needed. Any approved purchases should be communicated to our treasurer Chris.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 3    | Wildlife Road Crossings                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Linda had questions about where culverts on Russellville Rd and Upper Cold River Rd were being placed (as in Selectmen's minutes)</li><li>• Discussion of two culverts that are now large enough for good passage of water and wildlife but are perched, inhibiting use, as seen in decrease of wildlife tracks noted there. The SCC would like to have a better understanding of priorities of town culvert replacements. Michelle and Linda will contact Dan Cavoto and Katie Stiles to discuss if two perched culverts could be repaired and what funding might be available for improving them so they can support wildlife use.</li><li>• Cynthia shared vtculverts.org (Explore the Culverts and Bridges in your Town) as a resource for us to read up on.</li><li>• Laura Black from the SPC shared that Melissa was in the process of drafting the section of the revised Town Plan (TP) on wildlife corridors and to look for drafts in upcoming minutes. A hearing on the TP draft will be upcoming in Nov and she encouraged our involvement. Good discussion on how the SCC data on road crossings and corridors is now incorporated into State data, and this can be used to refine the wildlife corridor overlay map, which is an important tool in helping educate landowners on ways to conserving important corridor habitat.</li><li>• SCC also looking at connectivity stepping stones with neighboring areas that are important for connectivity on a larger scale and will look for guidance from Jens and Katie on this.</li></ul> |
|      | 4. Shrewsbury Educational Native Plant Garden | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signs are in process of being made</li><li>• 2 films related to native plants are planned; Doug Tallamy for Nov. and Cat. Lab one in Feb (est. cost \$75)</li><li>• If funds are left at the end of the 2026 budgeted year, request for \$ towards plants</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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|    | 5 Invasives               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knotweed is starting to sprout by bridge above the Native Plant Garden.</li> <li>• Weezie reported that for the first time in 12 years, no new shoots of knotweed could be found on Freeman Brook Rd bridge area!!!</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 6  | Master Naturalist Project | No report                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 7  | Trees                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gary's Gove mowing tabled to next meeting</li> <li>• Weezie has not yet heard from Dan on his thoughts about town approach to EAB. Can be discussed in the meeting about culverts</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 8  | Walks and Talks           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meg Madden mushroom walk was fabulous. Another mushroom that she had never seen before was discovered!</li> <li>• Cynthia reported on conversation with Travis Hart – not recommending a W&amp;T at this time. Kiosk expected end of Sept. Initial scoping meetings in the future.</li> <li>• Nov. Tallamy film at Library and Feb. Cat Lab film on caterpillars are only remaining planned events</li> </ul> |
| 9  | Commission Vacancies      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cynthia will be resigning at the end of this year after 25 years served as a volunteer for our community. She will be sorely missed.</li> <li>• Possible new member – materials sent and invite to next meeting</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 10 | New Business              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michelle and Chris will put together a draft of next year's budget</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|    | Next Meeting              | Oct 6, 2026 5:15pm Town Office                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|    | Adjournment               | 6:53 pm                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

Minutes Submitted By: Louise Duda  
Secretary SCC