

Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Shrewsbury Conservation Commission
October 6, 2026; 5:15 PM; Town Office

Attendees: Cynthia Thornton, Weezie Duda, Chris Clarke, Pam Darrow, Connie Youngstrom, Linda Shelvey, Kate Tibbs

Absent: Peter Grace, Michelle Greene

Members of the Public Laura Beltran

Minutes:Unapproved

Item	Topic	Discussion:
1	Minutes	Aug 4, 2026 meeting minutes were amended and 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. Members should come with budget estimates for 2027 to the Nov meeting for Chris .
3	Wildlife Road Crossings	- Based on Melissa Reichert's recommendation at meeting with SPC, we decided to extend the Wildlife Road Crossing Project for 3 more years to gather further data on three areas in town where we suspect high crossings but were areas not covered and would enhance validity of the wildlife corridor overlay map. Linda will clear timeline with Jens. - We would like to produce a spreadsheet of all perched culverts in town. Step 1- contact Katie Stiles on this for help and then Step 2-produce the spread sheet. The Culvert Queens Linda and Melissa will head this up. - We wish to know more about identified perched culvert repairs(?) on Crown Pt Rd and Russellville Rd.
	4. Master Naturalist Project	Laura Beltran came to speak with us about the nature of the program in order to establish it in central Vermont. She outlined various models and types of curricula as well as needs to initiate a program like this, generally held over 12 weeks in the spring or fall. She would be willing to run the program and write grants to support it but would like help from the SCC in brainstorming resources and landscapes in our area to gradually build the curriculum and experts. She will send us an email with specific questions or areas that for exploration in order to tap our knowledge of the area.
	5. Invasives	- Pam reviewed the emphasis of this year's invasive management attempts. She thinks it wise to investigate getting a license to apply some herbicides judiciously as the most effective way to eliminate harmful invasives. Weezie will contact Melissa Greene, a licensed applicator with USDA, to come to a meeting to outline the process and update us on other ways to control invasives. - Pam is taking a virtual course on CISMA- regional look at invasive control

		Pam is coordinating with Grace to make a sign for The Shrewsbury Educational Native Plant Garden that recognizes both UVM Master Gardner Program and the SCC as collaborators on the project, using the UVM logo that Rita obtained.
7	Trees	Gary's Grove mowing on October 27 at 2 pm. Connie will check with Mark, Cynthia will check with Rich, and Pam and Weezie will bring weed whackers
8	Walks and Talks	- Nov 6 at Library 7:00 Doug Tallamy film Homegrown National Park on the importance of creating native plants to provide habitat for caterpillars, pollinators, and birds. Michelle will set up projector with youtube program, Connie will bake cookies. - Preview of a film we want to show in February is being shown on Oct 14th – the Extraordinary Caterpillar. Weezie will send out the sign up again for this - We discussed holding another popular bluebird box building event at the school. Stash will precut and drill all the boards. Cost for 20 boxes (amount school felt they had room for) would be about \$100. Weezie will contact the school to see if they are interested again and will organize it for April but can not be there for the event. All members want to help but we need a Mastermind in charge and felt Todd would be The. Best.Mastermind. We will ask Michelle to twist his arm. - A motion was made and passed to support costs associated with this walk and talk. Weezie will attempt to get the lumber donated.
9	Commission Vacancies	We all met new member KateTibbs and were also thrilled that Linda Shelvey would like to return to being on the SCC. We welcome them both with open arms. Chris will make sure Kate is added to the AVCC's email list as a new member. Michelle will submit her name to the Selectboard for appointment in March.
10	New Business	- Connie expressed concerns again of the garbage being dumped at the Brown Bridge and wanted volunteers to go clean it up again. The SCC felt it was the town's responsibility to deal with this. We provided the town with Grace's anti-littering signs which were not installed. We hope game cameras can help catch the suspects. - Pollinator Garden and Invasive Plant section of the SCC section on the Town Website could use some updating. All should take a look to see if anything should be changed. - We were encouraged to take a look at the great webinars being offered through AVCC emails. Kate was told of the Educational Leadership one offered again in the Spring. Several new ones are up.
	Next Meeting	Nov 3, 2026 5:15pm at the Town Office. There is much on this agenda so the annual dinner at Weezie's house will be the following night Nov 4. There will be a potluck sign up to add to the spaghetti and meatballs.

	Adjournment	7:19 pm
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Minutes Submitted By: Louise Duda
Secretary SCC