



Seymour Beautification Commission
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
 Conference Room 107, Community Center
 20 Pine Street, Seymour, CT 06483
 Thursday July 17, 2025 – 6:00 PM

COPY RECEIVED
 DATE: 7/28/25
 TIME: 2:25pm
 TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Our duty is to oversee and manage town-owned parcels and open spaces through routine maintenance or enhancement, and to monitor all passive recreational trails. We shall develop work plans, produce maps, and ensure the safety of residents by promoting trail rules.

Members Present: Stuart Brannen; Jeff Baryla; Zachary Succow

Members Absent: Nancy Chucta

Others Present: Jon McKenzie, Liaison

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Brannen called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM

All present stood, saluted the flag, and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of June 26, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

Motion by Z. Succow to approve the Minutes of the 06/26/2025 Special Meeting, as presented. Seconded by S. Brannen. No discussion. Board voted 3-0 to approve.

4. Reports & Correspondence

- Jeff and Zach walked the North Loop Trail at Fountain Lake on Thurs July 10. Some invasive plants and their locations were noted. Zach saw the large stream crossing where a bridge might be helpful. The two used an assessors map and GPS to discover the Scouts' original trail spur. Restoring this will take a lot less effort than previously thought. A couple work parties could be planned in the future to focus on this and the invasive plants.
- Jeff was at Paramount on Sat July 12 pulling some young burning bush and other plants. He discovered that someone in the neighborhood is illegally dumping their yard waste on this municipal land. Evidence [Attached] shows mugwort, and possibly knotweed, too.
- Jeff participated in a USFWS webinar on Tues July 15. The topic 'Riparian Conservation and Management' was very intriguing. He'll be applying some of what he learned to Keith Mitchell Forest (Fourmile Brook area), and possibly some Land Trust parcels, as well. The next free monthly webinar is titled 'Public Use, Recreation, and Mangement in Forested Habitats'. It will take place on Tuesday August 19, from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm.
- Jeff and Nancy will be completing the Master Woodland Manger program Thurs July 31.

5. Old Business

A. Annual To-Do List

The board's to-do list [Attached] remained mostly unchanged.

B. Schedule Work Parties

Jeff will host 'mini-events' (approx. 2 hours) on Thursdays when he is available. Saturdays will be for larger projects (3 hours, 4 if needed). Rain Dates for Sat will be Sun. Jeff shared this proposed upcoming Work Party schedule:

Thr July 24 at GP	Sat July 26 at LLLRP	Thr July 31 at SDP	Sat Aug 2 at KMF
Thr Aug 7 at GP	Thr Aug 14 at SLT	Sat Aug 16 at PPG	Thr Aug 21 at GP
Thr Aug 28 at Chucta	Sat Aug 30 at FL(N)	Thr Sept 4 at GP	Sat Sept 6 at KMF

S. Brannen motioned to approve the schedule as presented. Seconded by Z. Succow. There was no discussion. Board voted 3-0 to approve.

C. Volunteers/Stewards/Liaisons

The board has had no new volunteers, stewards, or liaisons recently.

6. New Business

A. Discussion and Action on Changing Scheduled Meeting Time

Members of the Conservation Commission approached the board with a proposal to swap meeting start times. Conservation would like to meet at 6 pm, if Beautification is willing to meet at 7 pm, instead. If approved, this won't go into effect until the Sept 18 meeting.

J. Baryla motioned to change the meeting start time of the Seymour Beautification Commission from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, effective September 18, 2025, pending approval by the Seymour Conservation Commission. Seconded by Z. Succow. There was no discussion. Board voted 3-0 to approve.

J. Baryla made a motion to change the official regular meeting location of the Seymour Beautification Commission (formerly known as the Trails Committee) from the Flaherty Room in Seymour Town Hall to the Conference Room of the Seymour Community Center. Seconded by Z. Succow. There was no discussion. Board voted 3-0 to approve.

B. Any Other Business

Jeff announced that the 7th Annual Connecticut Trail Symposium will take place on Friday October 3, 2025, at Manchester Community College. It's a full day of concurrent sessions, speakers, and networking opportunities. This will be Jeff's third consecutive year, and he encourages all other board members to attend. Registration should be opening soon.

Applications for DEEP's Trees for Communities Grant Program are open until Aug 31. In addition to impervious surface removal to add street trees, other eligible projects include: tree planting on private lands (with landowner permission), urban forestry planning and planting, workforce development, invasive species removal, and more. Jeff will notify the Land Use Dept and First Selectwoman of this board's interest, and draft design if needed.

7. Public Comment

John McKenzie mentioned that he may have misspoke at the last meeting. He clarified that the Blight Hearing he talked about is scheduled for Aug 5, 2025 at 6:15 pm.

8. Adjournment

J. Baryla made a motion to adjourn. Z. Succow seconded. All in favor (3-0). The Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeff Baryla
Secretary/Trail Manager

Seymour Beautification Commission will next meet on Thurs Aug 21 at 6:00 PM.

Attachment – Seymour Beautification Commission's 2025 To-Do List

Status & General Maintenance

- ☐ Boundary markers to be posted at all properties (summer/fall/winter)
- ☐ Universal signage for all properties. Ask Land Trust what future plans are for their parcels.

Kieth Mitchell Forest (188 & 34. Eagle Landing, Falls Trail, Great Hill Reservoir)

- ☒ Continue action plan for controlling invasive plants and replacing them with natives
- ☐ Long-term plan to work on all details outlined in CERT report
- ☐ Improvements to Falls Trail, connection to Eager Beaver Trail (north/west side of Brook)

Little Laurel (36 Tibbets Rd. Perimeter Loop, Cave Trail, and paper street)

- ☐ Per CT DEEP, close all access points but one to motorized vehicles (A. Urbano/P. Picone)
- ☐ Per CT DEEP, notify nearby residents of ATV laws and ask them to report violators (Urbano)
- ☐ Install trail cams to monitor activity (suggestion by Shelton Trails Committee)
- ☐ Decommission all unsanctioned and illegal trails, especially those near vernal pools
- ☐ Fix/Address drainage issues; Restore upland habitat between the two large vernal pools
- ☐ Finalize/Promote only official trail(s) (produce map and send to Tom D. at NVCOG)

Fountain Lake North (131 Davis Rd i.e., North Loop Trail)

- ☒ Finish surveying & flagging old Boy Scout trail (cut in 2007, neglected & overgrown)
- ☐ Look into native shrubs that can be hedge/privacy rows. Acquire and plant in key areas.
- ☐ Restore trail [2026/2027]. Partner with BSA to build footbridge(s) for stream crossing(s)

Fountain Lake South (899 Fountain Lake Rd i.e. South Loop Trail, Lemay's Pond)

- ☐ Follow-up on invasive plant action plan this fall (sched. cut & paint work party in Sept/Oct)
- ☐ Meet with Derby & Ansonia boards to discuss ATVs (possibly form joint citizens' focus group)

Paramount Pollinator Garden (21/22 Paramount Drive, paper street)

- ☐ Continue mapping/identifying invasive plants on property. Create a list of native alternatives.
- ☐ Preliminary design and layout of native/pollinator garden [early-to-mid 2026]
- ☐ Meet with Scouts to share ideas & proposals [mid 2026]

Gary Park (18 Osprey)

- ☐ Meet with Scouts to discuss preferred native plants & interpretive trail design suggestions
- ☐ Survey and flag narrow connection to Osprey (part of our 2026-2036 Greenways Plan)

Rolling Hills Forest (2 Butternut/25 Maple Ridge, paper streets)

- ☐ Partner with Seymour Land Trust on land/forest management plan and future design
- ☐ Update and Revise the outdated Seymour Land Trust Trail Guidebook (on Town website)

Seymour Dog Park (10 Moss/1 Colony)

- ☐ Invasive plant management around parking area and pond
- ☐ Start coming up with potential locations and designs for Rainbow Bridge

Naugatuck River Greenway (Riverwalk/Bypass) (49/53 Deforest)

- ☐ Invasive plant management along river bank and fish bypass multi-use trail

Attachment – Photo of Yard Waste Dumped at 21/22 Paramount (Taken July 12, 2025)



**Violation of Connecticut General Statutes § 22a-250
and Sec. 8-86 of Seymour Code of Ordinances**