



Seymour Beautification Commission REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Community Center Conference Room
20 Pine Street, Seymour, CT 06483
Thursday September 18, 2025 – 7:00 PM

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 9/23/25
TIME: 2:12 PM
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: Jeff Baryla, Secretary; Zachary Succow; JoElle Anderson

Others: John McKenzie, Land Use Liaison; Joe Niezelski, Jr., Conservation Commission Chair; Alex Danka, Seymour Land Trust President

Members Absent: Stuart Brannen, Chair; Nancy Chucta, Vice-Chair

1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

*Secretary Baryla, acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM
All present stood, saluted the flag, and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.*

2. Public Comment

A. Danka wanted to share with everyone that Seymour Land Trust's October 5 meeting will offer a public session in the beginning, after which the meeting will be closed to board members only. This meeting will not be open to the public for the entire duration.

3. Approval of the August 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes

*Motion by J. Baryla to table Approval of the Minutes until the October meeting.
Seconded by Z. Succow.*

This was decided due to the absence of both the Chair and Vice-Chair. JoElle also stated she did not yet read last month's minutes, and therefore should not vote to approve them.
Motion carried 3-0. Approval of the 08/21/2025 minutes will be tabled until 10/16/2025.

4. Reports & Correspondence

Jeff is still researching the history of the Gary Park area. He'll update more in the future.

On 09/16, Jeff participated in the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) webinar 'Finding Refuge in Suburbia: Managing Forests for Habitat in an Urban Environment'. The next free USFWS webinar 'Mature and Old Growth Forests' will take place on Tuesday Oct 28 from 12:00-1:30 pm. All webinars are recorded for later viewing, as well.

Jeff attended the 09/09 Culture & Arts Commission meeting to inform them of the Sunset Hike. Chair Judy Simpson asked about the status of Paramount. Would like to potentially work together with Beautification Commission on design and layout of pollinator garden. We are still actively managing invasive plants and are not ready to begin designs just yet.

5. New Business

A. Approval of Work Party Schedule

The board discussed possible locations for certain Thursdays. Afterward, Jeff shared the following proposed schedule for the rest of September into early November:

Thr Sept 25 at LLLRP
Sat Oct 11 at FLN
Thr Oct 30 at GP?

Sat Sept 27 at FLS
Thr Oct 16 at RHF?
Sat Nov 1 at SDP

Thr Oct 2 at LLLRP
Sat Oct 18 at PPG
Sat Nov 8 at PPG

Sat Oct 4 at LLLRP
Sat Oct 25 at KMF
Thr Nov 13 at ?

*Z. Succow motioned to approve the upcoming work party schedule as presented.
Seconded by J. Anderson.*

A. Danka gave permission for commissioners to enter Rolling Hills Forest for site visits to assess the property's woodland health and/or look into a possible future trail location.
Board voted 3-0 to approve the schedule as presented.

B. Update on 'The Seymour Sun'

Board members had submitted a few articles. Jeff is placing them all into the layout. The next issue should be done in a few days. Digital by email; Print copies at the Sunset Hike.

6. Old Business

A. Annual To-Do List Update

The board's to-do list [**Attached**] had only minor changes and updates made.

A. Danka said he liked the idea of restoring the trail at Gary Park and adding interpretive signage. It would be a nice feature and a great improvement to the property.

B. Status of Volunteers/Stewards/Liaisons

No changes to any this month.

7. Any Other Business

J. McKenzie said he hadn't yet discussed with J. Baldwin details of Newtown's Native Plant Policy or how to implement such a policy in Seymour (an idea presented to him by Seymour's Conservation Commission last month). He proposes first suggesting it to sponsors of the Adopt-A-Spot locations, and seeing how that works. Then, possibly requiring it for 'new developments' only, before eventually making it town-wide.

8. Public Comment

J. McKenzie updated all on the Ordinance Committee and the revised Blight Ordinance.

J. Baryla thanked Public Works for picking up waste at the end of Paramount last month.

9. Adjournment

*Z. Succow made a motion to adjourn. J. Anderson seconded.
All in favor (3-0). The Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Baryla

Secretary/Trail Manager

Seymour Beautification Commission will next meet on Thurs Oct 16 at 7:00 PM.

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

Status & General Maintenance

- ☐ Boundary markers to be posted at all properties (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, replacing them with native plants
- ☐ Long-term plan to work on details outlined in CERT report (after RWA parcel purchase)
- ☐ 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 (A. Urbano/P. Picone), close all access points but one to motorized vehicles
- ☐ Per CT DEEP (Urbano), notify nearby residents of ATV laws and ask them to report violators
- ☐ Install trail cams to monitor activity (suggestion by T. Gallagher, Shelton Nat. Resource Mgr.)
- ☐ 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 NVCOG for CTtrailfinder)

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

- ☐ Look into native shrubs that can be hedge/privacy rows. Acquire and plant in key areas.
- ☐ Restore original trail. Partner with BSA to build 2-to-3 footbridges for stream crossings.

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)
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Meet with Scouts and Culture & Arts Commission to share ideas & proposals [mid-2026]
- ☐ Preliminary design and layout of native/pollinator garden [mid-to-late 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)

Seymour Dog Park (10 Moss/1 Colony)

- ☐ Invasive plant management around parking area and pond. Schedule cut-and-paint party.
- ☐ Conduct site visit and come up with potential locations and designs for Rainbow Bridge.

- Land Trust Parcels -

(24 Chucta)

- ☒ Invasive plant management. Trail Manager to submit a report to the Land Trust with BMPs.

(338 Roosevelt)

- ☐ Organize Clean-Ups, similar to how KMF was done a few years ago [Spring 2026 – Fall 2027]

(2 Butternut/25 Maple Ridge, paper streets)

- ☐ Ask SLT about their land/forest management plan here and potential future design(s)
- ☐ Update and Revise the outdated Seymour Land Trust Trail Guidebook (on Town website)