



Town of Seymour
Conservation Commission (CNC)
Thursday, January 15, 2026 6:00 PM

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 1/23/26
TIME: 11:31 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Regular Meeting Minutes

Christopher Willis Conference Room
20 Pine Street 2nd Floor, Seymour, CT 06483

Members Present: Joe Niezelski, Jr.; Karen Bertapelle; Nancy Chucta; Marietta Sabetta
Others: John McKenzie, Land Use Dept Liaison; Jeff Baryla, Advisor
Members Absent: George Cipows

1. Call to Order

Chair Joe Niezelski, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM
All present stood, saluted the flag, and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
Chair appointed Jeff Baryla to Secretary Pro Tempore for this meeting.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was established. There were no alternates present.

3. Election of Officers

A. Chair

K. Bertapelle nominated Joe Niezelski, Jr. for Chairman of Conservation Commission.
Seconded by Nancy Chucta. Vote: 3-0-1 (J. Niezelski, Jr. abstained)

B. Vice-Chair

M. Sabetta nominated Karen Bertapelle for Vice-Chair of Conservation Commission.
Seconded by N. Chucta. Vote: 3-0-1 (K. Bertapelle abstained)

C. Secretary

There were no nominations for Secretary.

4. Public Comment

Baryla recommended that the board nominate a secretary at their earliest convenience.

5. Approval of December 18, 2025 Minutes

Motion by M. Sabetta to approve Dec 18, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented.
Seconded by N. Chucta. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

6. Reports & Correspondence

A. Monthly Trail Manager's Report

All commissioners reviewed the report. There were no questions or comments.

B. Emails/Letters to Commission

CT Land Conservation Council welcomed the commission as a new Municipal Affiliate.
Baryla read the email [Attached] from Executive Director Amy Blaymore Paterson.

7. Old Business

A. Update on Commission's 2026 Goals

Bertapelle reiterated that her priorities are still kiosks, butterfly garden, and addressing

ATVs. Other commissioners had reviewed and updated their 2026 goals at the December meeting. Baryla stated that kiosks and the garden are on Beautification Commission's list, and the Conservation Commission had a discussion related to ATVs at the last meeting.

B. Discussion on 'The Seymour Sun'

Baryla asked that all commissioners freely send him articles or suggestions at any time. Topics for each issue will be picked in advance with updates provided at future meetings. Chairman Niezelski recommended looking into Facebook options for the board's Pages and Groups in regards to posting rights, and discussing those options at the next meeting.

8. New Business

A. Information on 2026 CLCC Conference

Baryla announced that CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC) released a 'Sneak Peek' of their upcoming conference. Any active commissioner that is considering attending the Conference at Wesleyan University in March should let him know before registering. Chucta noted that several of the announced topics were of interest to her.

B. Discussion on 'Open Space & Greenways Plan'

Commissioners discussed that Seymour's Board of Selectpersons, at their Jan 6 meeting, authorized the creation of the town's new 10-year Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), and that CT General Statutes § 7-131a permits a conservation commission to draft an 'Open Space Plan' as an addendum to their respective municipality's POCD. Baryla reviewed the common procedure a town board or designated committee follows when making such plan. Board members will consider whether to begin this process and what to include in the plan. No action taken by the Conservation Commission at this time.

9. Adjournment

Motion by N. Chucta. Seconded by M. Sabetta.

All in favor (4-0). The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Baryla

Secretary Pro Tempore/Advisor to the Commission

Seymour Conservation Commission will next meet on Thurs Feb 19 at 6:00 PM.

Attachment – Email to Conservation Commission from CLCC Executive Director



<seymourconservation@gmail.com>

Thank you for your Support!

1 message

Amy Blaymore Paterson <abpaterson@ctconservation.org>
Reply-To: info@ctconservation.org
To: seymourconservation@gmail.com

Fri, Jan 2, 2026 at 11:55 PM

Dear John and Members of Seymour Conservation Commission,

Thank you for joining the CLCC community as a Municipal Commission Affiliate.

As an Affiliate, your commission is now part of a strong and connected statewide conservation community — one that brings together land use commissions, land trusts, and advocates across Connecticut to share knowledge, strengthen local efforts, and amplify our collective voice for conservation.

For a full overview of all member benefits available to your commission, [visit our website](#).

Thank you for your support. And thank you for all that you do for land conservation in Connecticut.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Amy'.

Amy Blaymore Paterson
Executive Director
abpaterson@ctconservation.org
860-852-5512 (office)
860-614-8537 (cell)