



Town of Seymour
Beautification Commission (SBC)
Thursday, January 15, 2026 7:00 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: Stuart Brannen; Nancy Chucta; Jeff Baryla; Zachary Succow; JoElle Anderson

Others: John McKenzie, Seymour Land Use Department Liaison

Members Absent: None

1. Call to Order

Chairman Stuart Brannen called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM
All present stood, saluted the flag, and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was present.

3. Election of Officers

A. Chair

J. Baryla nominated Stuart Brannen for Chairman of Beautification Commission.
Seconded by N. Chucta. Vote: 4-0-1 (S. Brannen abstained)

B. Vice-Chair

S. Brannen nominated Nancy Chucta for Vice-Chairman of Beautification Commission.
Seconded by J. Anderson. Vote: 4-0-1 (N. Chucta abstained)

C. Secretary

J. Anderson nominated Jeff Baryla for Secretary of Beautification Commission.
Seconded by Z. Succow. Vote: 4-0-1 (J. Baryla abstained)

4. Public Comment

McKenzie shared that he submitted his “2026 Revitalization Program” to all Adopt-A-Spot members. Guidelines include illumination, clearance around signs, recommending native plants, a variety of pollinators for the spring and summer, and more. Chucta liked that native plants were recommended. Anderson agreed, hoping new guidelines will help.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. October 16, 2025

Chairman Brannen noted the misspelling of “Keith” on line 5A.
Motion by N. Chucta to approve the Oct 16, 2025 regular meeting minutes, with stated correction. Seconded by Z. Succow. There was no discussion. Motion carried 5-0.

B. November 20, 2025

Motion by J. Baryla to approve the Nov 20, 2025 regular meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by S. Brannen. There was no discussion. Motion carried 5-0.

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

There was no recent correspondence.

7. Old Business

A. Update on Collaboration with Seymour Land Trust

Baryla spoke on the preparation of the upcoming "Field, Forest, and Stream" event to be held at the Henry Hamel Environmental Building on Saturday Feb 21 at 11:00 AM. The Land Trust had approved funding to provide refreshments for guests and participants. Baryla added that a volunteer or two would be needed to assist with the activity and possibly the distribution of the refreshments. Hot chocolate will be made on-site. Brannen and Chucta offered to assist at this event. Baryla thanked them both. Brannen asked that an overview of the activity be emailed to him, so he can better prepare for it. Baryla will draft this and send it to both Brannen and Chucta.

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. Updates provided at future meetings.

8. New Business

A. Discussion on Rescheduling Fountain Lake Walk/Hike

Chairman Brannen expressed disappointed that the New Year's Day Walk/Hike needed to be canceled due to dangerously high wind gusts. He asked the board for suggestions on dates/times to reschedule. Out of all suggestions, Brannen recommended Sunday Feb 1 as a "Groundhog Hike", to begin at 11 AM, trail/weather conditions permitting. McKenzie thought it'd be fun to use 'Hike and Seek your Shadow' in the advertising or promotion. *Motion by J. Baryla to reschedule the Fountain Lake Walk/Hike to Sunday February 1, beginning at 11:00 AM, to be announced publicly and through town administration. Seconded by Z. Succow.* There was no further discussion. *Motion carried 5-0.*

B. Review and Approval of 2026 To-Do List

Motion by N. Chucta to table approval of the 2026 To-Do List. Seconded by Z. Succow. There was no further discussion. *Motion carried 5-0.*

C. Approval of Upcoming Event Schedule

The board discussed the following upcoming event dates:

Sat Jan 17 at KMF	Sat Jan 31 at LLLRP	Sat Feb 7 at PPG
Sat Feb 21 at SLT	Sat Feb 28 at KMF	Sat Mar 7 at PPG
		Sat Mar 14 at KMF

Motion by Z. Succow to approve the Upcoming Event Schedule as presented.

Seconded by J. Anderson. There was no further discussion. *Motion carried 5-0.*

D. Information on 2026 CLCC Conference

Baryla announced that a "Sneak Peek" of the upcoming CT Land Conservation Council (CLCC) Conference was shared with the Conservation Commission. He encouraged other board members to take a look and consider going. This will be his third year attending.

9. Adjournment

Motion by J. Anderson. Seconded by Z. Succow.

All in favor (5-0). The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Baryla

Secretary/Trail Manager

Seymour Beautification Commission will next meet on Thurs Feb 19 at 7:00 PM.

Town of Seymour
DEPARTMENT OF LAND USE & CODE COMPLIANCE
20 Pine Street 2nd Floor, Seymour, CT 06483

Monthly Trails Report for January 15, 2026

Paramount (pollinator garden) [PPG]

No recent work performed. Next Work Parties will be planned for Sat Feb 7 and Sat Mar 7.

Keith Mitchell Forest [KMF]

Work Party scheduled for 01/17. Pulling border privet in advance of minor reroute of Falls Trail. Additional Work Party planned here for Sat Feb 28. We will slowly begin addressing all the issues outlined in the ERT summary (barberry patch, erosion, autumn olive patch), as well as planning the first spring clean-up of the adjacent Seymour Land Trust Parcel.

Little Laurel Lime Ridge Park [LL]

Nancy and I performed work along the paper street on 12/20 (2 hrs). Next Work Party here is proposed for Sat Jan 31. No major work planned here until all entry points are addressed.

Gary Park (18 Osprey) [GP]

No Work Party here until spring when we'll target knotweed and begin planning trail restoration.

Fountain Lake North/South [FLN/FLS]

New Year's Day Walk/Hike was canceled due to very high wind gusts (35mph). The Beautification Commission wants to discuss possibly rescheduling it. I will suggest Sat Jan 24 at 12 PM, immediately following my meet & greet event at Heav'nly Donuts. Next best is Jan 31 after LLLRP

Seymour Land Trust parcels [SLT]

No recent work or activity at any. "Field, Forest, and Stream" event at SLT, Sat Feb 21 at 11 AM. Allie contacted me saying \$200 was authorized for refreshments for guests (donuts/hot chocolate)

Other

- I have decided to combine my recommendations and BMPs for 24 Chucta, 2 Butternut, and 338 Roosevelt into one report. I will forward this to Alex Danka when done.
- Commissioners have still not gotten back to me on visiting the Dog Park. I would very much like feedback and suggestions on rainbow bridge details prior to drafting initial plans this spring.
- The 2026 CLCC Conference is Sat Mar 21. I will inform commissioners of their discount code.

Proposed upcoming event schedule (pending approval by the Beautification Commission):

Sat Jan 17 at KMF	Sat Jan 31 at LLLRP	Sat Feb 7 at PPG	Sat Feb 14 at KMF
Sat Feb 21 at SLT	Sat Feb 28 at KMF	Sat Mar 7 at PPG	Sat Mar 14 at KMF
Sat Mar 21 CLCC Conf.	Sat Mar 28 at SLT	Sat Apr 4 at LLLRP	Sat Apr 11 at PPG

Thank you!

Jeff Baryla
Trail Manager