



**TOWN OF WESTBROOK  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Mulvey Municipal Center  
866 Boston Post Rd.  
Westbrook, CT 06498  
Tel. 399-3046 – FAX 399-2084

Westbrook Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, April 21, 2026, 7:00 p.m.  
Mulvey Municipal Center - Multi-Media Room and via Zoom

**Members Present:**

Chairman Randy Bell, Steve Bergeron, and new Conservation Commission member Peter Huta

**Members Absent:**

Sheridan Bauman and Molly Bernstein

**Staff Present:**

Environmental Planner Heidi Wallace, and Recording Clerk Kathy Savona

**Members of the Public:**

Eric Clayton, member of the public, was in attendance.

Lexi Larson, member of the public, shared information about an Earth Day event she recently attended at the Senior Center which included a presentation on owls.

**Call to Order:**

Chairman R. Bell called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes:**

MOTION: to approve the 1/20/2026 Conservation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted. MADE: by S. Bergeron; SECONDED: by P. Huta; VOTED IN FAVOR: R. Bell, S. Bergeron, and P. Huta: 3-0-0.

**Bills:**

MOTION: to approve payment of \$125.68 to Kathy Savona, Recording Clerk for January meeting minutes. MADE: by S. Bergeron; SECONDED: by P. Huta; VOTED IN FAVOR: R. Bell, S. Bergeron, and P. Huta: 3-0-0.

**Correspondence:**

There was no new correspondence.

## **Old Business:**

### **1. Set up date and time for trail cleanup.**

R. Bell stated that he would like to schedule a day and time for trail cleanup so that the interns are not faced with an excessive workload when they begin their summer positions. He noted that Tucker will be returning as a summer intern this year. H. Wallace will check with Juliet to confirm whether she will also be returning as an intern for the upcoming season.

H. Wallace has been working on cleaning up the property at the Tom ODell Memorial Open Space.

P. Huta said he walked Toby Hill Woods and Toby Hill East. He cleared some trees that were across the trails. He asked if they could make a trail map. There was discussion about adding Westbrook's trails to some of the online trail apps. H. Wallace said they need to create trail maps for Toby Hill VII and Toby Hill VIII.

R. Bell suggested starting their trail cleanup with Chapman Mill Pond. He offered to bring his chainsaw for trail clearing. P. Huta, S. Bergeron, and R. Bell are planning to meet at Chapman Mill Pond on Thursday, 4/30/26, at 10:00 a.m.

## **New Business:**

### **1. 431 Horse Hill Road – discussion about property**

R. Bell reported that the Conservation Commission is interested in purchasing the property at 431 Horse Hill Road. He asked how much acreage the property owner, Mr. Wallace, would be willing to sell. Mr. Wallace's property abuts the Town-owned land on Breakneck Hill, and his parcel and the Chapman Mill property are separated by approximately fifty feet. The Commission is interested in acquiring a portion of Mr. Wallace's land that would create a connection between these areas of Town-owned open space. To achieve this, the Commission would need a 10-foot-wide, 50-foot-long access way.

R. Bell noted that the Conservation Commission receives \$25,000 annually for open space acquisition and may also be able to pursue a grant from the Westbrook Foundation. Mr. Wallace indicated he is open to allowing the Commission to pay for the land over time and is interested in selling the property so it can be conserved. R. Bell stated he will speak with Mr. Wallace again before the next Conservation Commission meeting.

### **2. Lake Laconia/Chapman Mill Pond treatment bill**

First Selectman John Hall informed R. Bell that only the Board of Selectmen has the authority to enter into contracts. Historically, when Tom O'Dell served as Conservation Commission Chair, the Lake Laconia/Chapman Mill Pond treatment contract was managed through the Conservation Commission. R. Bell was not aware that the contract should have been processed through the First Selectman's Office.

J. Hall would like to meet with representatives from Lake Laconia, All Habitat, R. Bell, and H. Wallace to discuss establishing a new contract—through the Board of Selectmen—for payment related to the treatment of Lake Laconia/Chapman Mill Pond.

**Chairman's Report:**

Doug White, Conservation Commission member, recently passed away. R. Bell circulated a card for Commission members to sign. Doug was a valued member of the Conservation Commission. He will be missed.

P. Huta asked about the large boulders at Toby Hill East. H. Wallace explained that the boulders were installed to prevent ATV activity in the area. P. Huta also inquired about the large puddle on the site. H. Wallace noted that the puddle is a vernal pool, which is a protected wetland resource.

**Commission Member Reports:**

There were no Commission Member Reports.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m., until the next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Westbrook Conservation Commission which will be on Tuesday, May 26, 2026. MADE: by S. Bergeron; SECONDED: by P. Huta; VOTED IN FAVOR: R. Bell, S. Bergeron, and P. Huta: 3-0-0.
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Respectfully Submitted,

*Kathy Savona*

Kathy Savona, Recording Clerk