



**MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
January 13, 2026
7:30 PM - TOWN HALL-ENFIELD ROOM
820 Enfield St, Enfield, CT**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cote called the meeting to order at 8:07pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: William Cote, Karen LaPlante, Kathleen Vose, Michael Dynia, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Dean Syed, Nancy Wyzga, Jeremy Dugas, Megan Kelley

Absent: None

Also Stephen Hiney, Assistant Town Planner and Rebecca Jones, Recording

Present: Secretary.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 9, 2025

MOTION by: Kathleen Vose **seconded:** William Paul Cote to approve the December 9, 2025.

Commissioner LaPlante requested more detail be included in the minutes. She was reminded that the recording is posted with the minutes on Civic Clerk.

UPON A ROLL CALL VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: William Cote, Karen LaPlante, Michael Dynia, Kathleen Vose, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Nancy Wyzga No: None Abstain: Dean Syed.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

6. CORRESPONDENCE/STAFF REPORT

A request for \$1,200.00 was received from the North Central Conservation District for municipal funding. North Central Conservation District is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting residents and municipalities with environmental information such as wetland boundary reviews, pond inspections and other agricultural services. Mr. Hiney explained that this is usually a resource utilized by towns that do not have staffing in these areas. Chair Cote asked that this be tabled until the next meeting. Commissioner Wyzga is going to call this organization to see if they are offer expert testimony.

Commissioner Kelley shared information about intergenerational land care being held on January 21st on YouTube. Chair Cote asked Mr. Hiney to put links to the various webinars on the Conservation Commission website. DEEP will be tagging turkeys near Commissioner LaPlante's property.

7. APPROVAL OF INVOICES/OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

The commissioners continued to discuss the funding request from the North Central Conservation District.

8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND STAFF

There will be a special meeting of the Economic Development Commission to discuss Restaurant Week and a small-business passport. The next business roundtable meeting will be on February 5, 2026. The next meeting of the Scantic River Watershed Association will be at the end of this month. No specific date was provided. The East Windsor group of the Watershed had their New Years Day hike with 125 people in attendance. The Superbowl hike will be held on February 8, 2026 at 1:00pm near the Bailey Road entrance. Spring Splash planning is underway and will be held on the last Saturday in March. Volunteers are always welcomed.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. ECC Goals

- Create a list of potential or valued open space parcels and establish a process for submitting open space parcels to Town Council for consideration and purchase
- Search for and submit a grant request for natural resources
- Creating a trail map
- Identify vernal pools

Chair Cote reviewed the ECC goals for the new members. Melissa Everett runs a non-profit called the Hudson River Estuary Program. Chair Cote spoke to her about creating an inventory of natural resources. She recommended contacting Sustainable Connecticut and also shared an article with Chair Cote related to creating a natural resources inventory. The commissioners discussed vernal pools and the spadefoot toad as there is interest in finding this amphibian in Enfield. Chair Cote requested that a subcommittee be created to pursue the inventory of natural resources.

MOTION by: Nancy Wyzga **seconded:** Karen LaPlante to create a sub-committee to focus on the inventory of natural resources in Enfield

UPON A SHOW OF HANDS VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: William Cote, Karen LaPlante, Kathleen Vose, Michael Dynia, Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall, Dean Syed, Nancy Wyzga No: None Abstain: None.

Commissioners Kelley, Cote and Dugas volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

The commissioners asked Mr. Hiney for an update on the GIS upgrade, which he had none. Chair Cote noted that he had been trying to view the vernal pools on his house via satellite map and was unable to see them. Commissioner Dynia shared the locations of a few vernal pools that he knew of in town. Chair Cote explained the formal process of identifying the vernal pools. Chair Cote spoke about an initiative to involve Enfield students in identifying spade foot toads. Commissioners Dynia and Syed volunteered to help identify vernal pools on maps and the corresponding property address. Commissioner Dugas also volunteered to assist if needed.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

A. February 10, 2026

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: Nancy Wyzga, seconded: Michael Dynia to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 9:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Vose
Secretary

Rebecca Jones
Recording Secretary