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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SUFFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

REC'D BY: *me*

**Suffield Police Department
911 Mountain Road
In-Person Meeting**

Commissioners present: Art Christian, Chairman, Glenn Neilson, Vice-Chairman, Norm John Noble, Beth Fanous, Jessica McCue, Kathy Bielonko (Alternate), Tom Elmore (Alternate) and Ray Wilcox

Commissioners absent: Gary Phelps

Also present: Dana Steele, Consultant/Town Engineer

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 7:00 P.M.

Chairman Christian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed new alternate commission member Kathy Bielonko. Commissioner McCue read the agenda.

INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Rodent Infestation

Chairman Christian reported that he had discussed the rodent issue with Park Superintendent Chad Kuzontkoski. Mr. Kuzontkoski contacted an extermination service and obtained a quote for monthly treatment services. The initial visit would cost \$340.00, with subsequent monthly follow-up visits priced at \$150.00 each.

After discussion, the Commission determined that ongoing monthly treatments would not be necessary at this time. Instead, the members agreed to approve the initial \$340.00 service visit and one follow-up visit at a cost of \$150.00. Chairman Christian stated that he would relay this decision to Mr. Kuzontkoski for further action.

The Commission agreed that the total amount authorized for addressing the rodent issue would not exceed \$500.00.

Logging – Ratley Road

Vice-Chairman Neilson provided an overview of the actions taken to date regarding the logging operation on Ratley Road. He stated that he had no concerns with the logging itself; however, he recommended that the property owner contact the USDA office in Windsor Locks to verify whether any vernal pools are present that would require a 100-foot buffer.

Chairman Christian also confirmed with the responsible parties how the property would be left upon completion of the logging project. The work is scheduled to take place during July and August, when conditions are typically dry.

Vice-Chairman Neilson MOTIONED and Commissioner Noble seconded to approve the application for Donna Oppenheimer, 636 Ratley Road, West Suffield, for approximately 81.75 acres with an “as of right” per regulation with no conditions other than having the town’s consultant visit the area as needed. Motion passed unanimously.

PLAN ACCEPTANCE:

Commissioner Noble read an email from Conservation Consultant Keith Morris regarding a single family property located on East Street North. As no plans were available and there was question as to the proper address of the property, a decision was made not to take any action at this time.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

A brief discussion ensued among the commission members regarding the status of the financials at this point in the fiscal year. It was agreed by all that the finances appeared to be in a good position.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 27, 2026 MEETING

Vice-Chairman Noble MOTIONED and Commissioner Wilcox seconded to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2026 Regular Meeting with one change as noted:

Page 1: Omit Kathy Bielonko from the commissioners reported as absent.

Motion passed unanimously.

FISHING DERBY

The Commission discussed the annual fishing derby and agreed upon May 16, 2026, as the event date. This information will be forwarded to Dan Leonard in the Parks and Recreation Department for scheduling purposes.

Commissioner Noble stated that he typically serves as the liaison for the event; however, he will be unable to attend this year due to a prior commitment. Commissioner Fanous volunteered to assist in his absence.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairman Christian opened the Public Hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Commissioner McCue read the Legal Notice.

- 1. Permit #1739– William Wilson trustee (owner) – 23 Lot Subdivision. This property is located on the west side of Copper Hill Road, nearest intersection being Griffin Road. Assessor’s Map 9H, Block 3, Lot20A and Map 11H, Block 3, Lot 272**

No representatives for the owner were in attendance to support Permit #1739.

Extensive discussion ensued among the members of the commission regarding next steps due to the absence of any party allowed to speak on behalf of the permit.

Vice-Chairman Neilson MOTIONED and Commissioner McCue seconded to continue the Public Hearing to February 24, 2026. Vote: 5 in favor (Christian, Neilson, McCue, Fanous and Noble) – 1 opposed (Wilcox.) Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wilcox MOTIONED and Commissioner Noble seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary