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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
SUFFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION,  
MARCH 24, 2026  
7:00 P.M.**

REC'D BY: EWB

**Town Hall  
83 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
In-Person Only**

**Commissioners present:** Chairman Art Christian, Vice-Chairman Glenn Neilson, Norm John Noble, Beth Fanous, Jessica McCue, Gary Phelps, Kathy Bielonko – Alternate and Tom Elmore – Alternate

**Commissioners absent:** Ray Wilcox

**Also present:** Norm Cheever, Southwick Conservation

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER – 7:00 P.M.**

Chairman Christian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and assigned Commissioner Wilcox's voting rights to alternate member Tom Elmore for this evening.

Commissioner McCue read the agenda aloud.

Chairman Christian asked for a motion to add the Chairman's Report to the agenda.

Vice-Chairman Neilson MOTIONED and Commissioner McCue seconded to add "Chairman's Report" to the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**PLAN ACCEPTANCE:**

1. Permit #1742 – Zack & Sons, LLC – Single Family Home – East Street North. This property is located on the east side of East Street North. Assessor's Map 86H, Block 53, Lot 144.

The Commission reviewed the application for a new single-family home. Written comments from Consultant Keith Morris noted that the application is complete, with the soil scientist finding no regulated wetlands on-site. He also noted that the WPCA submitted a letter indicating capacity. This application is on for acceptance only and can be put on the agenda for the April 14, 2026 meeting for a possible decision. The Commission previously approved the adjacent lot to the south last year.

Extensive discussion occurred regarding reports of unauthorized construction activity on East Street North. Commissioners observed a "road" had already been cut and that machinery and lumber had been on-site for at least a week and a half. There were reports

of "red clay mud" running down the street. Members expressed confusion as to whether this work was occurring on the subject Lot 144 or the adjacent Lot 145, which was approved the previous year.

The Commission determined that a consultant (Dana Steele or Keith Morris) must perform an immediate site visit to verify the location of the work and ensure no unpermitted activity continues on Lot 144.

Vice-Chairman Neilson MOTIONED and Commissioner McCue seconded to accept the plan for Permit #1742 and place it on the April 15<sup>th</sup> agenda, with the requirement that the applicant attend the meeting in person. Motion passed unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Norm Cheever of Southwick Conservation asked if there had been any update on the property agreement currently being reviewed by the town attorney. Vice-Chairman Neilson stated that the town attorney has been occupied with a large court case but he will be reminded of the pending agreement.

Mr. Cheever also reported on the latest activities of the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) who held their most recent meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Noble encouraged commission members to participate when possible. Meetings occur on the second Friday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in person and via Microsoft Teams.

The commission members asked a number of questions involving the current inability to control the water levels on Congamond Lake during or in advance of major storms in order to avoid flooding and property damage. Mr. Cheever answered their questions to the best of his ability.

### **CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Chairman Christian reported on a recent problem at Sunrise Park involving the fishing dock that was destroyed by ice shearing off the upright piers during a period of high winds and heavy snowmelt. It has been determined that the dock is not salvageable and will need to be pulled out of the lake. The commission discussed options for replacement and the anticipated cost associated with it.

Chairman Christian reported on the recent passing of former Conservation Commission Member Patrick Reilly and relayed information on the upcoming memorial services.

### **CONSULTANT REPORT**

Commissioner Noble read Keith Morris's Consultant Report on South Grand Street. Mr. Morris reported that he had received an estimate from George Logan for a review of the South Grand Street wetland boundary, which includes attendance at the April 14, 2026 Conservation Commission meeting and inspection for vernal pools on site. The estimate is for approximately \$1,500. He noted that the commission will need to vote on whether or not to move forward with Mr. Logan, allowing him to conduct the inspection.

Vice-Chairman Neilson MOTIONED and Commissioner Noble seconded to approve the review of the South Grand Street wetland boundary by George Logan as presented. Motion passed unanimously

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 10, 2026 MEETING**

Commissioner Fanous noted that there was a misspelling of Commissioner Noble's name in the March 10<sup>th</sup> draft minutes.

Commissioner Noble MOTIONED and Commissioner Phelps seconded to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2026 meeting with the correction to Commissioner Noble's name. Vote: 6 in favor and 1 abstain (Neilson). Motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Noble MOTIONED and Commissioner Phelps seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kristen O. Lambert  
Recording Secretary

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

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