

## **Shutesbury Conservation Commission**

**Minutes – July 9, 2026**

Approved – July 23, 2026

*Virtual Meeting*

**Commissioners Present:** Michael McDuffie, Beth Willson (Chair), Bob Douglas, Scott Kahan,

**Commissioners Absent:** Mare Fox

**Other Staff Present:** Matteo Pangallo (Land Use Clerk)

**Others Present:** Terry Bernard, Tom Siefert, Lynda Grybko, Mary Lou Conca

**Call to Order:** 7:01pm

This meeting is being recorded and all members are participating remotely.

### **Comments from the Chair**

Willson reports that the Commission received an email from GZA summarizing the completion of the emergency repairs to the dam. As of June 24, Lake Wyola was back at its usual summer level. No information was provided in the email about the next steps for the dam.

### **Review and vote on minutes of June 25, 2026**

Motion to approve: Douglas; second: McDuffie. Douglas - aye; McDuffie - aye; Kahan - aye; Willson - aye. The motion is approved unanimously.

### **Site Visits Update**

Willson reports that she and Kahan visited 230 Leverett Road to look at erosion at the back of the property from run-off coming from the elementary school parking lot. She explains it looks like a significant channel and will look at the original drainage plans for the parking lot.

### **Land Management Update**

Kahan reports that he will be doing a walk-through of South Brook with Terramor soon and they are in discussion about alternative routes for the low-lying trails in the conservation area. Willson asks if Terramor found the delineation satisfactory and Kahan answers that he did not say. He will check with the owner when he is back in town.

**Discussion of and vote on Notice of Intent for reconstruction of a single-family home and septic system with associated site improvements, portions of which are located within the Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, at 36 South Laurel Drive, Parcels A-41 and A-50 (DEP #286-0311)**

Willson shares the draft Special Conditions for Order of Conditions for 36 South Laurel Drive and reviews its contents.

Douglas notes that the Commission had asked that all local zoning and building permits be secured and he would like that requirement included in the Conditions. Willson suggests that specification is required in Special Condition #8, regarding the applicant's responsibility to complete reviews required by all state, local, or federal agencies. Douglas agrees. Willson proposes an amendment to the Special Condition to clarify that work can only begin under the permit if all other required permits are in hand.

Willson recognizes Lynda Grybko who notes a typographic error in the address. Willson fixes it.

Willson recognizes Tom Siefert who asks what the final date for appeal of the Special Order of Conditions would be. Willson thinks it would be mailed out in early next week and the Land Use Clerk can notify Siefert when it is mailed.

Motion to approve and issue the Order of Conditions for 36 South Laurel Drive: Douglas; second: McDuffe. Douglas - aye; McDuffie - aye; Kahan - aye; Willson - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

### **Discussion of homeowner inquiry regarding intermittent stream between 371 and 375 Locks Pond Road**

Willson recognizes Terry Bernard who explains that an intermittent stream runs between 371 and 375 Locks Pond Road, both of which she and her husband own. The stream sometimes overflows or is a dry ditch, depending on weather, and presents a safety concern walking between the two properties. She notes that the culvert under the road that feeds the stream is in poor condition and the pipe where it is meant to discharge is blocked by sediment. The stream does run close to one of their wells and septic as well as right along one of the houses, touching a support column for the deck. Bernard shares photographs documenting the site and notes that over the years it has gotten wider and deeper.

Douglas expresses concern about road run-off near the well and about structural damage to the deck column. Willson agrees.

Willson recalls that the Bernards previously got permits to remove trees from the stream. She asks what they propose to do about the stream. Bernard explains they would like to run a buried pipe to direct the water from the Locks Pond Road culvert to the Lake Drive pipe below them.

Willson will do some research into how to permit that kind of work but notes that intermittent streams are often protected by DEP, which prefers streams be kept above ground and pipes be removed. She suggests the Commission do a site visit and discuss possible solutions.

Bernard points out that on the other side of Lake Drive, the stream does run through a pipe down to the lake, so it has been done in the past with this resource area. She states that the stream bed is a safety hazard when it is dry.

Willson notes that the recent Stormwater Erosion Task Force and report might be relevant to this. Douglas agrees and explains that this particular stream was one of the highlighted areas of concern identified by the Task Force. He asks the Bernards to submit a synopsis of their site and the problem to the Task Force so they can include this in the study. Willson will send the contact information for the Task Force to Bernard.

### **Discussion of draft regulations for Conservation Commission administered lands**

Kahan reports on a comment from the Chief of Police regarding the regulations of Conservation Commission lands. In the comment, the Chief addressed the question of enforceability and the allowance of emergency vehicles on the land. He asks the Land Use Clerk to follow up with Town Counsel for her feedback as well.

### **Unanticipated Business**

Willson asks Douglas for a report on the Task Force's first meeting. He notes that GZA gave a presentation on the new watershed area map of Lake Wyola and explains some of the changes the new map introduces. He explains that FRCOG will issue its own report as well.

Pangallo reports that the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority will be holding a public meeting at the Quabbin Visitors Center tomorrow at 10:00am and encourages Commissioners to attend if they can.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Douglas; second: McDuffie. Vote: McDuffie - aye; Douglas - aye; Kahan - aye; Fox - aye; Willson - aye. *The motion is approved unanimously.*

**Adjourned:** 7:40pm.

### **List of Documents Used:**

- Email from GZA regarding Lake Wyola dam repairs

- Draft Special Conditions for Order of Conditions for reconstruction of a single-family home and septic system with associated site improvements, portions of which are located within the Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, at 36 South Laurel Drive, Parcels A-41 and A-50 (DEP #286-0311)
- Photographs of the stream and culverts between 371 and 375 Locks Pond Road
- Email from Chief of Police regarding the draft regulations for Conservation Commission land