

Wallingford Conservation Commission Minutes
Monday, July 27, 2026, 4:30 PM, Wallingford Town Hall

Call to Order: 4:36 p.m.

Roll Call: Denise Eddy (chair), Debbie Scranton, CJ Sloane, Ralph Nimtz, Dennis Duhaime

Guests: Anne Awad, Ralph Cordo regarding concern over low flying military cargo planes from other states

Approval of Minutes of 6/22/2026

Budget Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Postponed until next month's meeting.

Damage at Stone Meadow Likely occurred around the July 18 Wallingford Day. Rim Trail's bench with the Peter Upton plaque tossed down hill, undamaged, and now secured with a chain. A couple of library book posts were damaged, and have been replaced. Downed tree likely from wind. Signage at Lake Elfin Beach has encouraged being careful around new plantings which are doing well. Perhaps a mention in Front Porch Forum about taking care of Stone Meadow.

Hazard Mitigation Plan Two areas not in the plan, which the WCC thinks are very important: 1) Japanese Knotweed which can damage crucial infrastructure and make flooding worse by taking over native plants, and 2) tick control by eliminating species such as non-native honeysuckle and Japanese Barberry.

Bee Hives CJ Sloane reports that bees are doing well. The bee sales money had been formerly been kept in a separate account, but are now with our regular budget money. At a September Selectboard meeting, we will consult with the board members on the WCC having a separate account of the honey money which would be voted on at Town Meeting. Dave Scully has a bee suit, who helped Jane Quigley, will help with the bees.

Trex Figures are now quarterly. D. Duhaime will forward catalog for us to suggest items to use up our credit.

Donation to Wallingford University Carol Tashie thanked us for our \$75 contribution. We voted in April to contribute an additional \$107 which she has not yet received.

Mushroom Walk on West Hill August 8 Class has filled with four on the waiting list. 3 WCC members and our 2 hosts on West Hill Road are free. Total of 15 participants, and reminders have been sent to those who have not yet paid.

Workshops We have had a professional company from Poultney (Slate Valley Trails) advising us on Stone Meadow trail maintenance. AVCC offers many courses like this and is a good resource. Our WCC is a member.

Stone Meadow Maintenance The WCC is the only town entity not contracting out. We decided to wait until the return of D. Duhaime before making decisions as much of the work would fall upon R. Nimtz and D. Duhaime. It was decided that the WCC will continue with weed whacking, but we'll try to hire a local person to do the mowing of the paths. R. Nimtz and D. Duhaime will interview a local person as to their interest and the exact paths to be mowed, with R. Nimtz supplying a map. The large meadow will need mowing, likely brush hogging in late summer., with D. Duhaime contacting a local who has mowed for us previously. We should be able to hire someone without getting bids if the fee would be under a certain threshold.

Purchased Items in last year's budget Trail markers, oak tree which will need to be planted by the apiary in memory of Jane Quigley, banner, poster boards and markers for signage, plastic sandwich board.

Budget Not discussed.

Adjourned 5:40

Next meeting is on Monday, August 24, 2026 at 4:30 Wallingford Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Scranton