

**Springfield Conservation Committee (SCC) Meeting.  
Minutes for June 21, 2025 Meeting.**

**11:30 am**

**69 Mineral Street.**

The meeting was called to order by Geetu Melwani, chairperson pro tem. Present were Geetu Melwani, Heidi Trimbach, Hallie Whitcomb and Chuck Gregory.

**Announcements:** Heidi and Geetu had visited the Town of Springfield website, and shared with the committee that it had been updated, and seemed better organized. Geetu said she clicked through other committees' links and saw that they had their notices and minutes posted, but the page of SCC did not have any of our minutes posted. The committee agreed that we should correct this as soon as possible.

Geetu suggested that we try to get the committee to review and okay the minutes via email so that during the meeting we can more efficiently approve the minutes of previous meetings. We will also need to connect with whoever is doing the town website (Chuck says it's Hunter Van Velsour) on getting our previous minutes uploaded.

Geetu will remind Nate Ells to send out the press release on recruiting new members that has been prepared.

**Updates:**

There was a subcommittee meeting of Heidi, Hallie and Geetu on 10/7. They discussed recruitment of new talent for the committee. They discussed the hill at the hospital, getting in touch with the town manager to get a list of all the town committees for purposes of liaison, and to ask him about school and town properties for mowing and ground maintenance schedules. Jeff Mobus has since given Carrie Kellow the list of properties. **Hallie will follow up with Jeff Mobus** on the committee taking over the town's vacant mini-lot on Valley Street as a demonstration project. **She will also ask him about the best way to establish contact** with the other town committees and the Springfield Regional Development Corporation.

**Geetu and Heidi will attend the Springfield Trails and Rural Economy Committee** meeting next Monday to establish communication and liaison.

Heidi and Hallie have visited Bob Flint at SRDC to discuss the plantings in the BRIC parking lot project. One topic discussed was whether oak trees were feasible on the site. **Heidi** has since done further research and **will follow up with Bob about the use of oak tree plantings.**

Chuck reviewed his visit with Bob Prohaska at the hospital. **He will visit Nate** to determine the foundation needs for the bench foundations and coordinate the movement of materials to install it. He reported that Bob is aware of the burning bush at the hospital and is open to the idea of this committee replacing it when the hospital has deracinated it. Chuck reported that the hospital now has a gardening committee. Bob has agreed the committee can stake out

individual plants on weed whacked slopes to save them from destruction. Chuck shared a sample of the type of labels we can use on the plants that will help identify, and preserve them.

**Hallie will present to the hospital board on July 8th**, during which she will update the board on what the committee has done with the hospital hill. **Chuck will ask Nate Ells** if his wife can update the hospital meadows pamphlet for the next printing. Title: "Healthy Habitat for All."

Chuck reported that the Brattleboro tree warden provides inoculations for ash trees, about \$200-\$500 every two years. **Chuck will present the idea** of inoculating Springfield's trees on behalf of the Conservation committee to the Trails committee on the 23d.

BRAT— **Hallie** has talked to Kelly Stettner of Black River Action Team and **will meet with her**. The committee will offer the hospital various options to substitute for the burning bush. **Chuck will ask Rob Prohaska** who the contact person would be for the hospital's gardening committee.

**Geetu will call the library** to reserve meeting space for the library.

The meeting adjourned.

July meetings will be July 5 and July 26, 11:30 at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Gregory, secretary pro tem