

**Springfield Conservation Committee (SCC) Meeting.
Minutes for July 5, 2025 Meeting.**

11:30 am

69 Mineral Street.

The meeting was called to order at 11:52 AM. Present were Geetu Melwani (presiding), Hallie Whitcomb, Chuck Gregory, Heidi Trimbach and Nate Ells. Absent was Carrie Kellow. Also present was Ev Ruch.

Announcements: Geetu reminded all to communicate with her by e-mail for previewing the minutes. Hallie Whitcomb said that the Co-op manager, Allie, is eager to have the committee take over maintaining the planters. Nate Ells mentioned that nine acres of floodplain north of the recycling center is up for sale.

Approval of minutes of previous meetings: Approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting. All will review them by e-mail, then approve them at the next meeting and submit the approved minutes to Hunter Van Velsour, the Town Manager's assistant, for posting.

Updates:

1. Hospital bench— Chuck Gregory reported it only needs another 80 lbs. of concrete mix to be finished, and it will be fully usable after the concrete sets, no later than July 10th.
2. Hospital garden committee— Chuck said that Rob will provide the contact information in the next few days.
3. Staking plants at the hospital— The committee discussed staking to mark individual plants in the areas mowed by weedwhacking. Rob Prohaska is in favor of the idea, and the committee considered the best way to identify them, with no-mow season (Next May and June) being perhaps the best opportunity to identify the native plants to be protected.
4. Hallie reported on her presentation to the hospital board of trustees this coming week, Friday at 5:30 PM. She will consult with Geetu Malawi and Heidi Trimbach on strategic content.
5. Nate Ells will take the original hospital meadow restoration pamphlet to Jennifer for her to revise. Heidi said Christopher is willing to help with it if needed.
6. The demonstration project at the lower parking lot: Heidi suggested we create flats of sprouted species to lay in place on the hillside rather than solarize and re-plant the whole site. Group consensus supported the strategy.
7. The BRIC parking lot tree planting proposal: Heidi will send Bob Flint another reminder to discuss it.
8. The Trails Committee has invited the Conservation Committee to its July 24th meeting , 5:30 at the Town Hall. We will attend.

There was discussion about what sort of plants to put in the Co-op planters. Clematis and native honeysuckle were mentioned as preferable.

It was moved to hold future meetings at 11:15, at the town library. (Ells/Trimbach). Passed unanimously.

Ev Ruch stepped forward to fill a position on the Committee. They will apply to the Town.

Hallie mentioned that she has not yet gotten from the Town Manager the list of town properties that get mowed. Two lots that were supposed to be exempted by the Town Manager have been mowed. Hallie and Heidi will visit the Public Works Department to find out the specifics of their mowing schedule.

Hallie shared a letter about respecting other species' desire and need to share the world. The committee discussed humans' compulsion for total domination.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Gregory, secretary pro tem