

Sutton Conservation Commission
Friday July 17, 2026 9 AM
935 US Route 5, Sutton VT 05867

First Meeting of the Sutton Conservation Commission

Agenda for today

1. Welcome interested members

Introductions and Interests – name, location, Green Up Day, herping, etc..

Tara Lynn will share the Strategic Plan and meeting notes from the Burke Conservation Commission

- (SP) Inventory and study town's natural resources, invasive species and restore important natural areas.
- (SP) Land acquisition and management of community forests; Willey Woods and North Pasture
- (SP) Be a resource for Sutton Town Boards and Commissions
- (SP) Community Education and Engagement: natural resources, maps, habitat restoration projects, riparian buffer plantings, invasive plant removal, river cleanups, host speakers and events.

Examples of things they have been doing:

- Willey Woods Bird Walk with Kevin Mack
- BTS Chimney Swift Project
- Wood Duck Box Project
- Presentations on Butterfly Atlas, beaver, apple trees
- Watershed talks
- Mapping resources for the planning committee
- Green Mountain Conservation Camp Sponsorship
- Town budget of \$500 yr
- A \$2000 CD for Town Forests
- Grant writing

New Members need to be vote in at the next select board meeting on July 30th at the Sutton Fire Department at 6pm. One of us should be there to ask that they vote in any new members, Ariane, the new town clerk put us on the agenda for the next select board meeting.

2. Rules

Members and their duties (3 -9 members)

Officers and their duties: Annually elected after select board appoints them

Chairman: presides over meeting, prepares agendas, generally directs work of the commission and spokesperson for commission who deals with other organizations, town boards, media and the public.

Treasurer: Recommends action on all bills received by the commission, prepares and presents financial reports to the commission and prepares and submits an annual financial statement to the town.

Clerk: Keeps the minutes of all meetings and records actions. Posts public notices as required.

Filling Vacancies and dealing with inactive members

Audio/Video recording of meetings

Meetings : Our next meeting will be the third Friday of the month from 9 AM – 10:30 Am at the Sutton Fire Department.

Procedure for voting and amendment of rules.

Next Meeting

Sutton Conservation Commission

Friday August 21st from 9 AM – 10:30 AM Sutton Fire Department

Agenda: Elect Officers, Brain Storm Mission, Set Goals

Burke Conservation Committee

Wednesday August 19th 6 PM at the Burke Community meal site

Resources:

<https://vtconservation.org/> Association for Conservation Commissions

<https://vtecostudies.org/what-we-do/projects/loon-conservation/loon-volunteer-materials-2>

<https://www.northwoodscenter.org/wordpress/help-the-vt-reptile-amphibian-atlas-find-frogs-in-newport-city/>

Minutes
Burke Conservation Commission
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6 pm
Burke Town Hall

1. Welcome-Diane Wells (Chair), Lindley van der Linde (Secretary), Cathie Wheeler, Hank Butler (Treasurer), Elise Lawson, Brandon Mapes, and Chris Manges. Guests: Skip Kelly and Kevin Sweeney
 2. Approve April Minutes-Approved!
 3. May 15 Riparian Planting Project - Review-Successful turnout! BCC, plus Taylor and Americorps, Trout Unlimited and Burke Town School Students. All 200 trees were planted with collars.
 4. May 17 Willey Woods Bird Walk - Review-Great weather! 9 people attended. 32 species. Willey Woods a "hotspot" on e-bird.
 5. Vermont Butterfly Atlas- 8/3 3 hour option/workshop inside and outside. Free. At Burke Clubhouse in E. Burke? We need a venue. Diane will help work out advertising.
 6. AVCC Tiny Grant-Denied. Second year in a row. We will keep trying and finding other opportunities.
 7. Coyote Guest Speaker-Chris Schadler. October or Early November date will be set by Hank.
 8. Green Mt. Conservation Camp Sponsorship-Lindley will help connect the BCC with the families applying.
 9. Willey Woods Community Forest-
 - a. Access road- Proposal to upgrade presented to Selectboard. Road will be upgraded by town road crew. Jim Sullivan will help coordinate.
 - b. Roundy Brook bridge discussion of where it should go, no update at this time.
 - c. Kiosk installation-holes were dug, kiosk was installed, set in concrete-roof yet to be added. Signage and maps set for the kiosk and are on their way. Forest subcommittee is discussing the names of the trails.
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1. Treasurer's Report- BCC does not need the selectboard approval to spend anything under \$10,000.00. Hank also updated the numbers in each of the forest accounts and the annual budget.
 1. Forest Subcommittee spending policy- The forest subcommittee is looking at work being done on a three acre area of Willey Woods. The work would involve releasing apple trees by grinding and mulching soft woods around an old apple tree area to help create diversity for wildlife. This would cost potentially around \$2,000.00. This work would not be done until later in the year, when the forest is less active, perhaps November. There was a discussion about how the subcommittee might spend this money if needed, no decision made at this time.
 1. Natural Resource Inventory - Landowner Contact - Elise explained this process and brought data that was being collected around Burke for the Burke NRI. Elise had fliers that are options for exploring NRI data, as an accessible option in addition to a larger NRI report that can be used to share data with the community. The BCC working on getting landowner permission to inventory on private land.
 1. Next BCC Meeting: Wednesday, June 18
 1. Other Business
 1. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted, Lindley van der Linde and Brandon Mapes

Minutes

Burke Conservation Commission
Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 6 pm
Burke Town Hall

1. Welcome: Diane Wells (Chairperson), Lindley van der Linde (Secretary), Kristen Langlais, Elise Lawson (Zoom), Brandon Mapes (Zoom)
 2. Approve May Minutes: Minutes approved
 3. Treasurer's Report: Hank could not be here, but money has been donated (\$4,000) to the Forest Fund. This has become an annual contribution from this donor. The Chimney swift project will be fully reimbursed to Brandon (\$300). He will submit the final paperwork.
 4. Update:
 - o Green Mt. Conservation Camp-Lindley will get in touch with the BTS home to school coordinator to confirm 3 families. I will reach out to another family to claim if the initial family fell through.
 - o Natural Resource Inventory-Everyone attended. Elise did a fabulous job! Next step to tighten town plan language. Diane can be in touch with Jens Hilke (Natural resource planner for State) who might be able to help. The planning commission is working with the regional commission to hire someone to help with the writing.
 - o Burke Town School Chimney Swift Project-Brandon will get reimbursed. In the Fall plywood will be put on, and painted!
 - o Wood Duck Box Project-At Bob's house. Maybe we can put it up at BTS in the Fall.
 5. Looking Forward:
 - o VT Forests, Parks & Rec; the Land and Water Conservation Fund; and an Inspection of the West Burke Recreation Area-A town request for us to complete. Lindley will complete it before the August due date.
 - o VT Agency of Natural Resources and the Vermont Protected Lands Database-Diane will inquire if we can share a layer from Elise's NRI work.
 - o Burke and Beaver Deceivers-There is a concern about a beaver on the Hollow Rd. past Pete's Pond. We can help create a creative way to help the town work with the beaver. Diane will try to Book Skip Lyle to educate us and help install a beaver deceiver.
 - o The BCC and Social Media-Kristen's post after the bird walk was a success. Kristen can help with posting and updating the public about our town forests, and events. It may bring more of the public to these spaces, but also interest residents to join the Forest sub-comm.
 - o Fall Educational Talks-Possible themes...Migratory birds? Beaver talk? Landscaping for wildlife? August would be a good start date.
 6. Next BCC Meeting: Wednesday, August 19th, 6pm. Summer break in July.
 7. Other Business? Tara Lynn arrived at the end of the meeting. She is trying to start a Conservation Commission in Sutton.
-6/20 Saturday-Northwoods hosting a butterfly blitz.
1. Adjourn