

Sutton Conservation Commission Minutes  
Friday August 21, 2026

1. Welcome – Tara Lynn Scheidet, Wanda Jastrzembski-Prince, Lauren Chamberlin, Erin Patoine, Katy Banovic, and guest Alex Connizzo (Volunteer from the Vermont Association of Conservation Commissions, AVCC)

2. Approve July Minutes – Approved!

3. Things we wanted to find out-

-What is the acreage of our town? 24,633 acres (mostly land very little water) Summit of Mt Hor 2,656

- What % is forest and agriculture? Visit state GIS Vermont Biofinder to learn more

- How are the town taxes effected by town forests and community forests? Town forests are a loss of tax revenue. No tax dollars go to purchase land. Land is either donated or purchased with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and managed through a Trust for public land endowment.

- Population was 1,005 people in 1830 and 1,029 people in 2010

4. What is the purpose of the Commission -

- Protecting and enhancing our shared resources

- Community responsibility, empowering land owners to know what they can do with their property

- To be inclusive and educate the community

- This is our town, this is why we choose to live here

5. Elect Officers -

Erin nominated Tara Lynn as Chair

Wanda Seconded

Tara Lynn Scheidet was voted Chair of the Sutton Conservation Commission

Tara Lynn nominated Katy as Clerk

Erin Seconded

Katy was voted Clerk of the Sutton Conservation Commission

Katy nominated Lauren as the Assistant Clerk

Tara seconded

Lauren was voted Assistant Clerk of the Sutton Conservation Commission

We agreed to post pone the election of Treasurer until we have a budgt and more attendance at the meeting.

6. Layout the rules -

We learned how to vote

We do not need to video record or audio record our meetings

We might want to have a zoom option so people can join remotely

We find no reason at this time to have a limit rule to how long you can be on the commission

## 7. Upcoming Events -

[Reptiles, Amphibians, and our Forested Wetlands](#) event on August 28th and 29th. Snacks will be provided!

The presentation is tomorrow at the [Wheelock Town Hall](#) starting at 6:30 pm.

On Saturday, August 29th, we will meet at 9 am at the **South Wheelock Freewill Baptist Church parking lot** (please pre-carpool to the church parking lot if you are able to). We expect the field trip to be from 9 am to 1 pm from start to finish. We will bring snacks, but feel free to bring lunch if you need to.

Please prepare accordingly for the weather and come prepared to walk through tall vegetation, get wet if needed, be in the sun, and most importantly, protect against ticks (and have fun adventuring)! Long pants, long-sleeved shirts, closed-toe hiking shoes, sunscreen, and bug spray are highly recommended.

## **Town Forest Stories**

Learn more about the AVCC's "Town Forest Stories" series and view past recordings at <https://vtconservation.org/town-forest-stories/>.

**Water Shed Talk in Burke this Fall....**dates to be confirmed

## **8. Resources-**

- Will and trust resources New England Forestry Foundation and Trust for Public Land
- AVCC Alex Connizzo (802) 223-2328 x 126 [aconnizzo@vnrc.org](mailto:aconnizzo@vnrc.org)
- Burke Conservation Commission Members
  - Curt Busto Environmental Engineer Watershed Management Plans Culverts
  - Elise Lawson Wildlife Biologist Natural Resources Consultant
- Thanks to generous grant funding from our state and federal partners, the [Vermont Forest Landowner Outreach Project](#) is offering [free technical assistance](#) to eligible landowners through the end of September. We are particularly interested in helping newer landowners (folks with five or fewer years of ownership) better understand the value of their land and the wide range of management strategies and stewardship options available to them. **If you're interested in talking to a natural resources professional about your forestland, please fill out this short [Google Form](#).** Properties over 25 acres will be prioritized, but all are welcome to apply.

## **9. Next Meeting –**

Friday September 18<sup>th</sup> at 9am – 10:30 at the Sutton Fire Department

**Brain Storm our Mission**

**Set Goals**

- Youth education and community education
  - Loon count
  - Amphibian crossing
  - Speakers coming to schools to plant seeds

**10. Other**

- Sutton Town Passed a bylaw that residence can do a green burial on their land.