Town of Granby Conservation Commission

Meeting on February 26, 2026

Present: Kara Marshall, Kent McCord, Jim Szipsky, Zach Donais

1. Call to order at 7:04 pm
2. No public for comment
3. Meeting minutes from January approved
4. Farm Lease
    a. Kara Marshall discussed meeting with Mike Walsh, Mark Fiorentino and Doug Baggett
        i. Soil testing – felt that criteria recommendation met
        ii. Cover crops - planted, bad seed, reseeded late
        iii. Report out – Doug to review Town of Manchester web form and consideration of other options for reporting including
    b. Jim pointed out that organic % in soil tests were low, and that regular cover cropping is a common solution to increase organic %
    c. Jim also pointed out that only two tests were conducted for 125 acres, whereas typical recommendations is one test per 5-10 acres
    d. Jim volunteered to meet with Mike Walsh and Mark Fiorentino to review soil sampling results and standard protocols
    e. Kara to request updated lease to understand soil testing requirements
    f. There was agreement to discuss the farm lease recommendations at March 10 meeting with Mark F. Also agreed to invite Mike W. to the meeting or offer a follow-up meeting with Mike.
5. Renewables on Town Property
    a. Kent has re-engaged with C-TEC solar and another firm on assessing solar for town buildings. Mike Walsh is pushing for this and supportive.
    b. Kent discussed the BroadLeaf Solar project on Rt 10. It may be moving forward, and the Conservation Commission should provide suggested requirements for native and pollinator friendly planting. Kent will volunteer to draft requirements when required.
6. Energy Conservation
    a. Jim discussed that CHA conducted Eversource-funded energy assessment on Feb.5 of all buildings in Town Center complex and Town Garage. Jim spent ~3 hours with them. Report not available yet.
7. Composting – no report
8. Plan of Conservation & Development
    a. Jim continues to work on POCD committee. The new draft seems to be a small change to the old draft.
    b. Next public input session March 12
9. Sustainable Connecticut
    a. Kara spoke with Mike Walsh. Mike agreed that recertifying is not a priority for the Town.
10. Meeting Topics for March 10, 2026
    a. Make the following changes compared to this meeting's agenda
        i. Remove Sustainable CT
        ii. Add BroadLeaf Solar
        iii. Add bear-in-trash solution discussion
11. Final Comments from Commissioners
    a. Kara spoke with Mike Walsh. Mike asked us to work on bear-in-trash solutions.
    b. Kara reported that Mike offered a tour of the transfer station.

c. Zach reported that controlled burn on wildflower field planned this spring.
d. Jim reported no response from AP Science teacher regarding memo taker.
e. Kara suggests letter to the editor or article in Drummer asking for note taker.

12. Adjourn - meeting closed at 8:01pm