Town of Granby
Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
July 14, 2026 at 7 pm
Via Zoom
Minutes – Approved

1. Roll Call

Present: David Desiderato, Zach Donais, Kent McCord, and Kara Marshall, commissioners
Daniel O'Connell members of the public.
The meeting opened at 7:06 pm

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Review of the May 12 and June 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes

David Desiderato moved, Kent McCord seconded, and the Commission approved the minutes.

4. Continued Farm Lease Conversation

Kara Marshall reported that she had reached out to Ellen Whitlow of the Agricultural Commission but had not heard back about the soil testing. She also shared that she had been approached by Holly Johnson of the library about helping to organize a meeting on Farmland Conservation. South Windsor had a meeting in March at which representatives from UConn Ag Extension presented on Conservation Easements, grant opportunities, and soil testing. The goal would be to hold a similar meeting with a representative from UConn on October 27 or November 5.

Action Item:

- Kara Marshall work with Holly Johnson to organize the meeting.

5. Energy Conservation & Renewables on Town Property

David Desiderato obtained and shared the Technical Assessment (TA) studies on Town Hall buildings and school buildings. Kara Marshall said that Mike Walsh reported that he would present the Town Hall building projects as part of the small capital budget for fiscal year 2028. It was unclear what the status of the school projects is. The Commission discussed whether geothermal energy and deeper energy efficiency measures could be incorporated into a Middle School renovation project.

No movement yet on the Renewables for Town Properties

Action Items:

- Kara Marshall to follow up about the status of the no-cost weatherization projects and school projects as well as explore opportunities for New Construction funding for the Middle School.

- Kent McCord to share the school buildings with the Public Buildings Commission
- Kent McCord to hand off renewables project to Zach Donais

6. Broadleaf Solar

The Commission had no additional comments or questions about the project at this time. Daniel O'Connell asked about the milestones and the projects and expressed concerns about the impact of the project on his neighborhood. The commission directed him to the town website and the Board of Selectmen.

Action Item:

- Kara Marshall to confirm that she had shared the feedback developed at the April Meeting with the First Selectman, Mark Fiorentino.

7. Composting

Will Madsen was unable to attend tonight's meeting but said that he's provide an update via email. Zach Donais reported that DEEP expects to open a call for grant proposals before the end of the year.

8. Plan of Conservation & Development

Zach Donais shared a copy of the draft report and invited commissioners to share feedback with Abby Kenyon. The plan will be discussed at upcoming Planning & Zoning meetings.

9. Sustainability Fair

Action Item:

- David Desiderato to research the fair held in Simsbury and Suffield to discuss possibilities for Granby

10. Meeting Topics for August 11, 2026

No additional meeting topics were proposed

11. Final Comments from Commissioners

Kent McCord resigned from the Conservation Commission due to increased responsibilities on the Board of Finance and Public Buildings Commission. The rest of the Commissioners thanked him for his service.

Kara Marshall reported that Ruth Zafian had been confirmed as a new member and invited the Commissioners to let anyone they know who may be interested she'd be happy to talk about the Commission.

12. Adjourn

The Commission adjourned at 7:47 pm

Minutes Prepared by Kara Marshall

Karen A Marshall

July 14, 2026