**Town of Granby**
**Conservation Commission**
**Regular Meeting**
**August 11, 2026 at 7 pm**
**Via Zoom**
**Minutes – Subject to Approval**

## 1. Roll Call

Present: David Desiderato, Zach Donais, Will Madsen, and Kara Marshall, commissioners
The meeting opened at 7:07 pm

## 2. Public Comment

None.

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

David Desiderato moved, Will Madsen seconded, and the Commission approved the minutes.

The Commission discussed recruiting a recording secretary.

## 4. Continued Farm Lease Conversation

Kara Marshall spoke to Ellen Whitlow of the Agricultural Commission about the soil testing. Whitlow said the Ag Commission does not have the resources to support further testing at this time, and she was unsure about the value additional testing would give the town. Commissioners were interested in continuing to explore a plan to support future calls for proposal for the leased land. Zach Donais said that soil testing may be available for free from the Ag Extension center, and that we might find a high school student interested in conducting the testing.

Action Item:

- Kara Marshall to reach out to a contact at the Suffield High School Agriscience program about whether a student might want to support soil testing work or be a recording secretary for the Commission
- David Desiderato to continue to explore grants to support testing.

## 5. Energy Conservation & Renewables on Town Property

Kara Marshall reported that she had discussed the projects with a colleague at Eversource. No further action has yet been taken by the town on No-Cost Weatherization offered by Eversource. Support for the Middle School may also be available through the New Construction program at Eversource.

No movement yet on the Renewables for Town Properties

Action Items:

- Kara Marshall to update Mike Walsh on the status of this item.

- Zach Donais to follow up with Kent McCord to keep the project going.

**6. Composting**

Will Madsen reported out on his discussions with David Aldridge of the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resource Recovery Agency (SCRRRA). Madsen is working to bring Aldridge to speak to the town in September or October. He is also seeking to invite representatives of the Simsbury Conservation Commission and East Granby Inland Wetlands Commission. Madsen envisions a three town collaboration to support a microcomposting unit with regional drop points in each town. This would provide industrial composting services that can accommodate even wood and meat, which home composters are less likely to take on. Similar programs have been implemented in New Haven and by the Housatonic Regional Resource Recovery agency with big impact. Composting can reduce tipping fees and save the town money. Zach Donais reported that DEEP expects to open a call for grant proposals before the end of the year. Last year DEEP awarded $15 million.

Action Item:

- Will Madsen to
    - Recruit additional speaker from DEEP
    - Finalize date
    - Invite representatives from Simsbury and East Granby
    - Contact Holly Johnson about having the Library host this as a Conservation Conversation

**7. Plan of Conservation & Development**

No further action taken

**8. Sustainability Fair**

Action Item:

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

**9. Meeting Topics for September 8, 2026**

Plan of Conservation & Development to be removed, all other items to be maintained. David Desiderato to provide an update on the PACE NICER Working Group.

**10. Final Comments from Commissioners**

David Desiderato said that he has been growing native plants as an outcome of his invasive plants work, and he will be offering them for sale at Holcomb Farm during Open Farm Day on September 12.

Kara Marshall reported the annua report for 2025-2026 is due on September 1. She will begin to compile it based on meeting minutes and invited other commissioners to share any topics they wish to highlight.

## 11. Adjourn

The Commission adjourned at 7:48 pm

Minutes Prepared by Kara Marshall



August 11, 2026