

## Minutes

### Brookfield Conservation Commission Meeting

May 18, 2026

7:00 PM Regular meeting at Brookfield Town Office/Library:

In attendance: Jon Binhammer, Jon Jickling Sue Shea, Starr Strong, Lindsey Pett, Marcella Dent

1. Commissioners took a celebratory walk to Hippo Park and the Floating Bridge
2. Meeting call to order: 7:26pm
3. Review Agenda
4. Public Comment: None
5. Approval of Minutes of the April meeting: Jon J. moved to approve the corrected version of the April Minutes; Starr seconded; approved
6. Green Up Day wrap up: 55 volunteers reported green up work and helped to fill a 30-yard dumpster; estimating that volunteers covered about 85% of class 2 and 3 roads in Brookfield; 293 bags of trash; 56 tires; 30 bags of returnable cans; 10 mattresses. Next year's goal is to do some outreach to young people (maybe partner with the school?). Brainstormed other ideas about how to increase engagement. Thanks to Starr for organizing Brookfield!
7. Project updates:
  - a. Sunset Brook Natural Area management plan
    - i. Boardwalk/bridge Timing: late summer/early fall with potential help from Norwich students.
  - b. Lindsey has a student this upcoming school year that needs a capstone project. There is potential to structure a continuing project, as well (different students over several years). Does this group have a need or idea for a mutually beneficial project? Brainstorm included: Ecological inventories of Sunset Brook Natural Area or Brookfield Town Forest; Diversity index; Study of Sunset Lake; Watershed study of Sunset Lake;

interpretive posters for education; inventory of the Williamstown and Brookfield Gulfs (this is rugged terrain).

- c. Survey of vernal pools: Commissioners looked at a map with potential and confirmed vernal pools and added additional potential vernal pool locations. Next step: Ideally we would like to get these onto the Vermont Center for Ecostudies  
(<https://vtecostudies.org/what-we-do/projects/vernal-pool-monitoring>).
  - d. Public events for summer:
    - i. June 20<sup>th</sup> – Aquatic Macroinvertebrates, 10:30 AM, Sunset Brook across from the Post Office, in the old VT-65 Right Of Way, below the culvert.
    - ii. June 25 – German forestry.. Lessons for Brookfield, Robert Nelson County Forester
    - iii. Advertise both on Front Porch Forum
  - e. I-89 underpass – Agreement and next steps: Northfield Road underpass has a fence that used to connect pastures on either side of the highway. Today we have a signed agreement from the landowner. The next step is to send this back to the State.
8. Other business: Sue gave a quick update on the Planning Commission’s work on the zoning bylaw. Some Conservation commissioners should attend their informational meeting (date pending)
  9. Adjourn at 8:43 PM – Next meeting June 15, 2026