

WATERBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

# Selectboard Update

*2025–26 Reflections • 2026 Strategic Direction*

May 18, 2026

# Agenda

- Natural Resources Inventory — status update
- Commission membership update
- 2025–26 stalled initiatives
- 2026 strategic objectives
- High-priority project support
- Discussion & next steps

**mapped over 1800 individual wetlands from 13 distinct natural communities covering approximately 2000 acres**

**2555 individual forest polygons (a number of these are small patches, hedgerows, etc) in 28 natural communities, covering over 34,000 acres**

#### AGENDA ITEM 1

# Natural Resources Inventory

## *Status Update*

- Arrowood Environmental providing technical leadership for the town-wide NRI.
- Field work, data compilation, and mapping continue on schedule.
- WCC reviewing draft municipal plan chapters and providing local knowledge inputs.
- Public-facing rollout and outreach plan in development with Arrowood.

## WHY IT MATTERS

*The NRI is the foundation for nearly every 2026 conservation objective — plan, bylaw, hazard mitigation.*

## HOW YOU CAN HELP – Get the word out....

*Arrowood is looking for WILLING Landowners who support them conducting independent site assessment to confirm to natural resource mapping*

# Commission Membership

3

Members departing this cycle  
*Marcy Blauvelt, Meg Baldor & Angie Hilsman*

2

New members joining  
*Lotta Lampela and Sille Larson*

2

Seats currently open —  
recruitment underway

*Ask: continued Selectboard support in identifying and appointing qualified candidates.*

# 2025–26 Reflections

*What stalled — and why*

## STALLED INITIATIVE

# Community Outreach & Engagement

## CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

- Capacity constraints — small commission, departures mid-workstream.
- Formal communication plan and recurring outreach cadence not fully developed.
- Competing focus on NRI launch and policy review.

***Path forward: addressed directly in 2026 objectives — communication plan + quarterly education series.***

# Policy & Planning

## *Working with the Planning Commission*

- Integrate conservation topics into the Municipal Plan and zoning bylaws.
- Align WCC actions with stated flood hazard roles.
- Provide technical input on natural-resource-related zoning revisions.

## 2026 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

# Hazard Mitigation & Outreach

### LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

- Understand and fulfill stated role of WCC within the LHMP
- Integrate conservation and natural-resource best practices.
- Identify and integrate WCC priority projects into the LHMP.

### COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

- Develop and implement a simple WCC communication plan.
- Launch a quarterly educational series for residents.
- Execute outreach with Arrowood to support the NRI.

### ALIGNMENT

*Each objective links commission work to the broader town policy framework.*

# High-Priority Project Support

*Coordination, technical input, advocacy*

## Hope Davey Hole #1

Ensure execution of the existing plan - move hole #1 out of Class II wetland and buffer

## Thatcher Brook & Graves Brook

Continue water-quality monitoring and analysis with Friends of the Winooski.

## Natural Resources Inventory

Support Arrowood's technical leadership through completion.

## Other high-priority projects

Randall Meadows, Stanley Wasson, The Waterworks...

*WCC role: coordination + subject matter guidance + advocacy aligned with town policy.*



## CLOSING

# Action Items & Discussion

## FOR THE SELECTBOARD

- Support recruitment for 2 open WCC seats.
- Affirm WCC role on flood hazard bylaw and river corridor work.
- Confirm WCC liaison to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

## FOR THE WCC

- Finalize 2026 communication plan & education series.
- Coordinate with Planning Commission on Municipal plan / bylaws.
- Continue Hope Davey, Thatcher/Graves Brook, NRI support.

## DISCUSSION

*Questions, feedback, and direction from the Selectboard.*