

York Conservation Commission (CC)
Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2026

Members attending:

Mary Lou Dopart, Alan McDonald, Gerry Beekman, Greg Lipsky, James Kences

Other Attendees:

Stephanie Byrne (OSCS consultant), Robin Kerr (York Parks and Rec)

Continued Business

Open Space Conservation Subdivision Ordinance (CP 2.1, 2.2, 2.6)

Steph reported that Dylan will set up a meeting with two PB members and Todd Frederick to review the proposed OSCS amendments. The goal is to determine if the intended impact of each amendment should be achievable under existing language or if amended language would better support intended goals.

OSCS applications (CP 2.1, 2.2, 2.6)

No new actions to report.

Town Conservation Easements (CP 2.3)

The CC received a letter from Peter Joseph indicating that the Town code officer had visited the Bayberry Woods easement and confirmed the continuing violations. The Town attorney will send a letter to the HOA (copied to the CC) stating that the Town may pursue civil action against the property owners if the issue is not corrected. The Selectboard would have to approve such action.

If the letter is not received within 30 days, the CC will request a meeting with the Selectboard to state that the CC will hand over monitoring/reporting on easements to Town employees.

Regional invasive plant initiative (CP 2.1, 2.2, 2.44)

A meeting is set for January. Discussion will center on regulations for pesticide application rules on town-owned properties"

Goodrich Park invasive plant project status (CP 2.1, 2.2, 2.44)

The mulching phase has been completed. The group will meet Tuesday (20th) to plan ahead for the next phase.

Mayor's Monarch Pledge (CP 2.20)

Robin reported that some actions had taken place in 2024 and 2025 and invited the CC to participate. One suggestion was to distribute educational material at the YRCA Climate Fair that focuses on using native plants in gardens to attract monarch butterflies.

Approaches to working with the Planning Board

Andy provided copies of the form to be used by the CC on site walks, which members should review and provide feedback before the next meeting.

Comprehensive Plan (CP 2.41)

The CC will consider education opportunities for the coming year. A piece focused on pesticide use would be appropriate for early Spring.

Action Item Summary:

1. Review form for CC members to use on Planning Board site walks – All
2. Follow up with town re conservation easement enforcement – Mary Lou
3. Document CC actions that are part of the town Comprehensive Plan – All (to Greg)
4. Meet with Planning Board members re OSCS amendments – Mary Lou, Steph
5. Review last year's annual report and develop outline for this year's report – All

Next CC meeting:

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Location: Wheeler Room