

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
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Steering Committee
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The Plan and Conservation Development Steering Committee Minutes July 23, 2026

Call to Order: Chairman George Castle called the scheduled meeting to order at 5:30 pm, in the Assembly Room, Plymouth Town Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman George Castle led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fire Exit Notification: Chairman George Castle pointed out the Fire Exit to the committee.

Roll Call: Present were Chairman George Castle, Tony Roveto, Vincent Gualtieri, Deb Ouellette, Sue Muraski and Joe Sopczeski – Director of Plymouth Public Works.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from June 25, 2026 meeting of the Plan and Conservation Development Steering Committee were approved unanimously.

Chairman George Castle turned the meeting over to Acting Division Director for the Community Planning Division of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, Lana Harrison and Emely Ricci, Community Planner II of the Community Planning Division of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments.

Lana reminded the committee that we will be focusing on Open Spaces at this meeting, and we will focus on other land use issues at the September meeting

Open Spaces Discussion –

The commission discussed what qualifies as Open Spaces, and what is the values of Open Spaces. Tom, an environmental Planner from NVCOG showed us an interactive map he and his colleagues have been working on that maps all of the open spaces in the Naugatuck Valley Range from Thomaston to Shelton. He demonstrated the map and it's uses. The map is updateable and constantly being improved and adjusted. He informed us about Public Act 490 – private land that receives a tax break based on the owners commitment to keep the land as an open space. These properties are not included in the map compiled by NVCOG as the owners could change their mind and develop the land if they chose. Plymouth's total open space acreage is 2,764. Our protected open space acreage is 2,154 acres.

The committee completed an exercise looking at several different Open Space maps from different time periods and with difference uses. The committee found a few areas that the NVCOG may want to investigate the parcel deeds further to verify the parcels' status as Open Space. The exercise was to look at the status of open space in Plymouth, thinking about it, and

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then later ask questions like: What do we want to acquire? What do we need to change? Who do we need to partner with?

Steering Committee Administration – Our next meeting will be held on September 23, 2026, at 5:30 in the Assembly room of town hall. Emely will send out calendar invites to all committee members. We will not meet in August for a summer break

Public Comment – None

Adjournment: There being no further business of the Plymouth Planning and Conservation Development Steering Committee, Sue made a motion to adjourn at 6:39 pm and Tony seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maureen Cappetto

Maureen Cappetto
Recording Secretary