



TOWN OF COVENTRY, RI
Conservation Commission

1675 Flat River Road
Coventry, RI 02816

To: Coventry Town Council

From: Coventry Conservation Commission

Date: June 17, 2026

Subject: Planning Commission and Conservation Commission Working Together

Dear Coventry Town Council,

The Coventry Conservation Commission (ConsCom) is recommending that they work more closely with the Planning Commission and other Town Commissions in an Advisory capacity. Today the ConsCom has no advisory input on any Town planning.

This process is set by the Town Charter Chapter 15- Commissions, Article I- Conservation Commission, 15-8- Coordination with Other Town Agencies which states: ***"To effectuate coordination of the endeavors of the Commission, the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Review, Parks and Recreation Department, and any other board, commission or agency concerned with resource use shall notify the Conservation Commission of any proposals concerning natural resources made by or to any of them."*** This section clearly states the ConsCom can render advisory only when asked. The ConsCom has been asked for an advisory statement only once in the last two years.

However, Town Charter Chapter 15- Commissions, Article I- Conservation Commission, 15-9- Advisory Role of Commission; purpose states: ***"The Conservation Commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the Town Council and the Town Manager, and its purpose is to promote and develop the natural resources, to protect the watershed resources, and to preserve natural aesthetic areas within the Town."*** The ConsCom has had no interaction with the Town Council or Manager on activities within its purpose, until now.

Clearly, with the concentration of natural resources and planning activities in the Town, there is a role for ConsCom in the Town planning process.

The ConsCom proposal is to work in between the schedules of the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and the Planning Commission to render advisory positions on conservation-oriented topics that have gone through TRC but not yet approved by the Planning Commission.

In the future the Conservation Commission will be sponsoring a change to the Town Code to make this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Coventry Conservation Commission

CC: Coventry Planning Commission