

From: [Barratt, Nicola](#)
To: [Board of Representatives](#)
Subject: Stamford Conservation Commission
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026 8:58:33 AM

Hi!

My name is Nikki Barratt. I teach Earth and Environmental Science at UConn Stamford. I am also a Stamford resident. I would like to speak tonight at the public hearing.

My teaching includes climate resilience and biodiversity. We live in a fantastic place! However - Sea level in Long Island is rising at one of the highest rates in the country. Prevailing wind patterns make the air quality in downtown Stamford some of the worst in the country. We need to act now to preserve our way of life and ensure that future generations continue to thrive.

The courses I teach explore all this data so that students can make informed decisions about their future- where to work, where to live, what to drive, what to eat. We tour downtown Stamford noting all the great projects at Mill River Park and completing projects such as creating pollinator gardens and removal of invasive species in the UConn parking lot adjacent to the Rippowam (Mill) River. We discuss and see examples of the great work being done by Veterans groups, the historical society, the City of Stamford, Soundwaters, Save the Sound, and the Pollinator Pathway. Many students want to do more!

We are in the process of starting an e-corps at the Stamford campus (already established at Storrs and Avery Point). This will involve placing student interns with local agencies and organizations working on all types of environmental issues. A Conservation Commission would greatly aid in this endeavor - serving as a central location for all interested organizations to mentor, suggest projects and aid in coordination. Please support this important Commission!

Thank you

Nikki Barratt, PhD Environmental Engineering

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Support for LU32.009 Conservation Commission

CM

Caroline Moran <carolinesm865@gmail.com>    

To: **Board of Reps - All Members**

Mon 8/17/2026 7:58 AM

Stamford needs a Conservation Commission to work alongside its regulatory boards to steward local ecosystems and apply for state grants that would boost the city's environmental protection, open space preservation, and climate resilience.

Thank you for your consideration.

Caroline Moran
200 Silver Hill Lane
Stamford

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Support for LU32.009 Conservation Commission

DM

David Moran <dmoranexecutive@yahoo.com>    

To: **Board of Reps - All Members**

Mon 8/17/2026 8:13 AM

Stamford needs a Conservation Commission to work alongside its regulatory boards to steward local ecosystems and apply for state grants that would boost the city's environmental protection, open space preservation, and climate resilience.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Moran
200 Silver Hill Lane
Stamford

David A. Moran Healthcare Sales & Marketing (203)968-1066 -
Office (203)249-2443 - Cell

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1255 23rd St. NW, Suite 450
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202-452-1100
humaneworld.org

August 19, 2026

Stamford Board of Representatives
Land Use and Redevelopment Committee

Re: Support for LU32.009, an ordinance establishing a Conservation Commission

Dear Honorable Representatives,

On behalf of Humane World for Animals, formerly known as The Humane Society of the United States, please accept this public hearing testimony in SUPPORT of LU32.009, which would establish an advisory Conservation Commission.

A Conservation Commission would provide valuable assistance to the City's regulatory boards in addressing the many current environmental challenges, including, but not limited to water quality, tree canopy, air quality, open space, and wildlife habitat.

Open space, wildlife habitat, air and water quality, and trees play an indispensable role in our community by providing essential habitat for a wide variety of species that include pollinators, birds, reptiles, and mammals of many different species. Trees offer shelter, nesting opportunities, protection from predators, and foraging resources for our community wildlife- all while supporting the health and biodiversity of the ecosystem in which we live.

The Stamford community benefits as well, as proper environmental stewardship plays an important role in mitigating climate change through the absorption of carbon dioxide and are strongly linked to reduced pollution as they intercept particulate matter and absorb gaseous pollutants. They also provide localized resilience and mitigating temperature effects when the community experiences sustained heat waves.

While sustaining urban trees (notably, legacy trees) offers a multitude of social benefits that include the cooling effects and air pollution reduction, those benefits also extend to enhanced safety, increased wellbeing, and higher property values. Studies examining the social impacts of urban trees have found associations with lower stress levels, improved mental health, better immune function, and increased academic performance. Research has also shown that the presence of urban trees enhances public safety, especially within public spaces. (For more information, please visit:



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Society of the United States and
Humane Society International

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202-452-1100
humaneworld.org

<https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2023/02/the-little-known-physical-and-mental-health-benefits-of-urban-trees/>.)

I respectfully urge your support for this measure, which will promote a greener, healthier, and more sustainable Stamford by creating a Commission that would fully focus on these vital matters and make informed, science-based recommendations.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Annie Hornish". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Annie Hornish
Connecticut Senior State Director
Humane World for Animals
Cell: (860) 966-1819
Email: ahornish@humaneworld.org

Support for LU32.009 Conservation Commission

JH

Jennifer Henkind <jhenkind@gmail.com>



To: **Board of Reps - All Members**

Tue 8/18/2026 9:38 AM

Dear Board of Reps,

Please have my comments read into the record at the Aug. 19th meeting.

I strongly support LU32.009 and the establishment of a Stamford Conservation Commission. Creating an advisory commission would give Stamford a dedicated voice for protecting our natural resources, expanding pollinator and native plant habitats, strengthening climate resilience, and pursuing environmental grants that the city currently misses. Importantly, the commission would not take authority away from existing boards or issue permits—it would provide valuable research, coordination, and proactive conservation guidance. I respectfully urge you to approve LU32.009 and help Stamford become a stronger steward of its environment for current and future generations.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Henkind

48 Eastover Rd

Stamford

Support for LU32.009 Stamford Conservation Commission

JW

Jeanne Waful <jeannewaful@hotmail.com>    

To: **Board of Reps - All Members**

Mon 8/17/2026 5:15 PM

Please read the following, my comments, into the record at the Wednesday, August 19th meeting. Thank you!

Having a Conservation Commission in Stamford will not hurt and can only help. I do believe that we need this more than ever at this time. Enabling us to get grants to work on supporting pollinators, having dark skies to see stars and help birds on their journeys North and South among other things are things that I support and I would appreciate all the support you could give to forming this commission.

Thank you for your time and hard work!

Jeanne Waful
Reynolds Avenue
Stamford

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LU32.009 Stamford Conservation Commission

JM

Jessica Morgenthal <jessica@resiliencegonewild.com>   

To: **Board of Reps - All Members**

Mon 8/17/2026 8:41 AM

I write in strong support of ordinance LU32.009 establishing a Stamford Conservation Commission. My work with public and private sustainability professionals and communities across the region has shown me that a Conservation Commission will deliver greater access to state, federal and private grants, enable more effective and efficient climate resilience initiatives, and contribute to the broader conservation and resilience building efforts that are vital to the protection and survival of our city, natural ecosystems and world. Responsible, expert volunteers are ready to serve. Stamford's window to act on this reality is now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,

Jessica

Jessica Morgenthal

914-471-2187

Resilience Gone Wild

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LU32.009 Stamford Conservation Commission

MV

Mary Verel <maryverel@gmail.com>



To: **Board of Reps - All Members**

Mon 8/17/2026 9:20 AM

Support for LU32.009. Stamford is the only town in this area that doesn't have a Conservation Commission. This needs to be changed. Now, more than ever, we need this Commission to assist with environmental stewardship of this great city.

Thank you

Mary Verel

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LU32.009 Stamford Conservation Commission

PS

Pamela Schmidt-Cavaliero <pscav1@gmail.com>    

To: **Board of Reps - All Members**

Mon 8/17/2026 7:49 PM

I am very much in support of establishing a [Stamford Conservation Commission](#)—a key step forward for expanding biodiversity, protecting wildlife habitats, and strengthening our city's natural resources.

I hope the Board of Representatives' Land Use and Redevelopment Committee during their public hearing on ordinance [LU32.009](#) to create the commission will find that this is much needed in Stamford.

Sincerely,

--

Pamela Schmidt-Cavaliero
92 Barmore Drive West
Stamford, CT 06905
203-858-2484

Establishment of a Conservation Commission, LU32.009

RS

Robin Stein <stein.robins.m@gmail.com>



To: **Board of Reps - All Members**

Tue 8/18/2026 1:37 PM

Dear Board Members,

I support the ordinance establishing a Stamford Conservation Commission (CAC). Initially, I had concerns: Do we need another commission, and could it slow needed housing development in Stamford? However, after reviewing the ordinance, the CAC is purely advisory, and after listening to testimony from the Land Use Bureau Chief, I now believe these concerns were exaggerated.

On the other hand, a CAC can perform an important role in developing a conservation and open space plan to supplement the recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. Of particular interest to me, the CAC could plan for the extension of the Mill/Rippowam Greenway and trail north from Scalzi Park to the Merritt Parkway as well as connections to Long Island Sound.

While I fully endorse creating a Stamford CAC, I do have one concern. To be most effective, the CAC will require full-time, dedicated professional staff, and I hope the administration will take that into account.

Sincerely,

Robin Stein (50-year Stamford resident)
67 Leonard St.

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LU32.009 Stamford Conservation Commission

SH Scott Hollas <shollas@rcn.com>     |  | 
To: **Board of Reps - All Members** Mon 8/17/2026 10:04 PM

I support it.

The fact Stamford currently has no such commission is embarrassing; we should be leaders! Stewardship is critical! We need an advocate for environment protections and meaningfully space preservation in our communities. This is undeniable. Don't vote no; we expect our Representatives to embrace visionary policies.

Thank you kindly
Scott Hollas,
Stamford - 41 Fairmont Ave

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To: Stamford Board of Representatives

Re: Support for LU32.009 Conservation Commission

Date: August 12, 2026

The purpose of this letter is to encourage and support the creation of a conservation commission in the City of Stamford.

The best argument for creating a conservation commission is to acknowledge the important environmental work that can be, and is being, done by existing conservation commissions in Connecticut. Below is one example of a conservation commission from a neighboring town.

The Town of Ridgefield CT established its Conservation Commission in 1962 by Town Ordinance after enabling legislation was adopted by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1961. The Ridgefield Conservation Commission consists of nine volunteer Ridgefield residents (and two alternates) who serve the town for staggered three-year terms. Commissioners are appointed by the Board of Selectmen to devote their efforts to the sound development, conservation, supervision and regulation of the town's natural resources.

The duties of the Commission include the following:

- Looking after the Town's open space, which includes trail maintenance, posting, and protection. Ridgefield has close to 5,700 acres of protected parks, forests, and passive open spaces managed by the [Ridgefield Conservation Commission](#). Popular local properties for hiking and nature walks include Pine Mountain Reserve, Hemlock Hills, and the Ridgefield Rail Trail
- Acting in an advisory capacity to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Inland Wetlands Board on the impact of development on the environment.
- Enforcing the Town's Open Space Use Ordinance. The Commission has a Conservation Enforcement Officer to act as the Commission's agent in the enforcement of the Town's Open Space Use Ordinance.

The Commission does not issue permits, approve or deny development applications, enforce regulations, or take authority away from the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Environmental Protection Board, or any other existing City body.

Below are some of the recent achievements of this voluntary body.

Habitat and Wildlife Successes

- **Purple Martin Colony:** Established one of the largest nesting colonies of purple martins in Connecticut at McKeon Farm, recording over 360 hatchlings.
- **Meadow Restoration:** Approved and funded native wildflower meadow expansions at McKeon Farm to support local pollinators.
- **Haying and Land Maintenance:** Regularly funds targeted haying and agricultural field maintenance across town properties like Lauzun Lane and Stagecoach to preserve open vistas and grassland species.

Policy and Community Outreach

- **Rodenticide Restrictions:** Advanced local policy initiatives to restrict harmful second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs) on town-owned properties.
- **Invasive Species Control:** Deployed specialized tools like Extractigators to empower volunteers in removing invasive plant species. Routinely organize and hold invasive species removal programs at Ridgefield Open Spaces – all with volunteer labor.
- **Public Education:** Partners with the Ridgefield Library for seasonal nature programs, evening moth-monitoring events, and family hiking initiatives.

Ridgefield is one example of a successful program. There are many other exemplary examples of conservation commissions in Connecticut. A valuable resource for Stamford to find great programs, mentors and guidance is the Connecticut Land Conservation Council <https://ctconservation.org/>.

Stamford will find that a dedicated Conservation Commission would bring together knowledgeable and passionate residents to research conservation issues and provide science-based recommendations to the City. A Conservation Commission would bring focus and attention to the preservation of open space and important wildlife habitat, protecting aquifer resources, and prioritizing resiliency measures necessitated by climate change and rising sea levels.

Please consider establishing a conservation commission, and consider organizing your commission by emulating a commission which has achieved tangible results and which is situated in a City similar to Stamford.

Thank you,

Vincent Giordano, volunteer
Sierra Club CT Chapter
Ridgefield Action Committee for the Environment

Support for LU32.009 Conservation Commission

From Willem Van Niekerk <willemh.vanniekerk@gmail.com>

Date Wed 8/19/2026 2:33 AM

To Board of Reps - All Members <BoardOfReps.ALL@stamfordct.gov>

Dear Board of representatives.

We all know that Stamford, like many other towns, faces increasingly complex environmental challenges. These include, but are not limited to, flooding/drought, air quality, water quality, tree canopy, open space, wildlife habitat, invasive species, etc.

We have recently learnt of the potential creation of a dedicated Conservation Commission that would bring together knowledgeable residents to research these issues and provide science-based recommendations to the City. We also understand this would be an advisory commission, made up of volunteers - not another regulatory agency.

We want to be clear; we fully support development. We also support keeping taxes down and don't like adding to bureaucracy.

Therefore, we think it is a very good idea to create this Conservation Commission made up of volunteering specialists in their respective fields.

Thanks

Willem and Gerda Van Niekerk

27 Briar Woods Trail

Stamford

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