



Committee on Parks and Recreation

The Committee convened on Thursday February 19, 2026 at 5:05pm on Zoom. Present were Theo Offei, Chair, Tony Palomba, Vice Chair, and Nicole Gardner, Secretary. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct interviews for the Conservation Commission.

Marie-Sophie Rohwaeder

Ms. Rohwaeder is an ecologist and biodiversity researcher. She moved to Watertown in 2024 from Germany, while working towards her PhD at the University of Potsdam. She is now looking for a job. Ms. Rohwaeder is happy to be settled into Watertown, and said it now feels like home. She is looking for ways to engage with others, and to serve the local community. She wants to do this in a sustained role with meaningful opportunities to participate in local decision making and so wants to serve on the Conservation Commission. She believes she can devote the time now, while looking for a job, to develop an in-depth working knowledge of the Committee's work, the relevant laws, and so on. Ms. Rohwaeder recently completed the Massachusetts Area Planning Council Fundamentals program, which is a training for conservation professionals on wetlands protection. She also watched recordings of fall and winter Con Comm meetings. She did both of these things for learning, and preparation if appointed. She is eager to bring a "fighting spirit" to the protection of our wetlands, a detail orientated and meticulous mind set, good communications skills, and strategies to resolve conflict and – where appropriate – achieve compromise. She is aware that a member of the Con Comm sits on the Community Preservation Committee and would be interested to learn more about that if appointed.

→ **Action Item:** Councilor Gardner made a motion seconded by Councilor Palomba to appoint Marie-Sophie Rohwaeder to the Conservation Commission with a term expiring February 15, 2029. The motion passed 3-0.

Leo Martin

Mr. Martin is a retired engineering geologist and project manager, who has over 40 years of experience in siting, testing, licensing, and construction of tunnels and other infrastructure

facilities. He has served on the Conservation Commission since 1997 and has developed a deep knowledge of the open space, wetlands, and developments in Watertown. His goals in serving are

- To preserve the wetlands we still have, and, if possible, clean up areas that are still contaminated.
- While DPW does a very good job already, to ensure the City keeps improving stormwater management, in order to protect our wetlands
- To protect and preserve the limited open space we still have in Watertown.

Based on his professional work experience, he believes Watertown's Conservation Commission has, across its members, deep and highly valuable skills. He is sorry to see some folks stepping down but is confident new members will contribute in important ways.

→ **Action Item:** Councilor Gardner made a motion seconded by Councilor Palomba to reappoint Leo Martin to the Conservation Commission with a term expiring February 15, 2029. The motion passed 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45pm

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Theophilus Offei
Chair

Anthony Palomba,
Vice Chair

Nicole Gardner,
Secretary