



**Watertown City Council
Committee on Parks and Recreation**

Councilor Offei, Chair, Councilor Gardner, Vice Chair, Councilor Palomba, Secretary

Committee Report of July 14, 2026

Presented to the City Council on August 11, 2026

The Committee on Parks and Recreation met on Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM in the City Council office. Presenter were Councilor Offei, Chair and Councilor Palomba, Secretary. Council Gardner, Vice Chair, was unable to attend.

The purpose of the meeting was to interview Erica Holm, Ian Edwards-Clancy, and Rachel Slater for appointment to the Conservation Commission. The Committee was informed that Ms. Holm had removed herself from consideration.

Ian Edwards-Clancy Interview

Mr. Edwards-Clancy has lived in Watertown since 2024 when he moved from Fort Collins, Colorado. There he attended Colorado State University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Horticultural Science. He presently works as a Data Analyst at Nutrien, an international company providing chemical products to farmers throughout the world. Mr. Edwards-Clancy is currently completing a certificate program with the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners and is an active member of the Society for Ecological Restoration and the Soil Science Society of America.

When asked why he is interested in joining the Conservation Commission, he said he believes he can make a positive contribution to the Commission because of his background in horticulture and soil studies. He also feels joining the Commission is a good way to give back to his community. He is particularly interested in protecting Watertown's open space and the Charles River. He also wants to use his ability to listen carefully to what others have to offer while simultaneously sharing best practices on meeting protocol. He is excited about the possibility of serving as a member of the Commission.

Action Item

Councilor Palomba made the following motion –

The Committee on Parks and Recreation recommends that the City Council approve the appointment of Ian Edwards-Clancy to the Conservation Commission to a term ending February 15, 2027.

Councilor Offei seconded the motion and it passed 2-0.

Rachel Slater Interview

Ms. Slater joined the meeting on zoom. Ms. Slater graduated from Smith College where she majored in Biological Sciences as well as Environmental Science and Policy. She presently works for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as an Environmental Protection Specialist in the office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation. There she works to ensure that granted-funded projects are compliant with federal environmental and historic preservation laws and executive orders. She was drawn to public service because of her interest in protecting communities that are impacted by environmental disasters.

She feels that her present work focused on environmental protection and historic preservation as well as her academic background make her an ideal candidate to serve on the Conservation Commission. She has particular interest in Commission's stewardship of the City's wetlands and its responsibility to ensure our woodland trails are protected and accessible.

Ms. Slater has attended Commission meetings, listened to recordings of meetings, and read meeting minutes, thus demonstrating her strong interest in serving on the Commission. She is eager to share her experience and talent to help the Commission achieve its mission.

Action Item

Councilor Palomba made the following motion –

The Committee on Parks and Recreation recommends that the City Council approve the appointment of Rachel Slater to the Conservation Commission to a term ending February 15, 2028.

Councilor Offei seconded the motion and it passed 2-0.

Councilor Palomba made the motion to adjourn. Councilor Offei seconded the motion and it passed 2-0. The meeting ended at approximately 6:15 PM.