



City Council
**Sustainability &
Environment**
Subcommittee Meeting

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103
<http://www.springfieldcityhall.com>
Victor Davila (Chair)

~Final~

July 13, 2026

1:00 PM

City Hall - Room 200

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Brian Santaniello	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Gerry Martin	City Councilor — Ward 7	Excused	
Maria Perez	City Councilor — Ward 1	Excused	
Malo Brown	City Councilor — Ward 4	Excused	
Zaida Govan	City Councilor — Ward 8	Absent	
Kateri Walsh	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Justin Hurst	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Victor Davila	City Councilor — Ward 6	Present	
Michael Fenton	City Councilor — Ward 2	Absent	
Jose Delgado	City Councilor At Large	Excused	
Lavar Click-Bruce	City Councilor — Ward 5	Excused	
Melvin Edwards	City Councilor — Ward 3	Excused	
Tracye Whitfield	City Councilor At Large	Excused	

In Person:

Councilor Davila (Chair)
Ken Shea
Ed Collins

Brian Skelly

Virtual:

Jay Latorre

Alex Sherman

Verne McAthur

Call To Order

1:00 PM Meeting called to order on July 13, 2026, in Hybrid Room 200, 36 Court Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

Public Portion

1. Continued discussion on the Woodland Ordinance

Minutes:

On May 18, 2026, the Sustainability and Environment Subcommittee, chaired by Councilor Victor Davila, continued its review of a proposed Woodland Ordinance intended to protect privately owned woodland areas while balancing responsible development. The committee reviewed a revised summary document prepared by SCANS based on prior feedback from the Law Department. The proposal outlines the ordinance's purpose, applicability, permitting process, mitigation requirements, commission structure, and enforcement provisions.

The committee discussed the proposed applicability thresholds, exemptions for routine tree removal, permit requirements, mitigation fees, tree replacement, and the creation of a commission to oversee applications. Members also reviewed how permit fees and fines would be distributed under the proposal and discussed the potential financial impact on larger development projects.

To support further review, the committee requested a case study to estimate potential costs for developers under the proposed ordinance. The City Forester and SCANS agreed to work together on the analysis. Members also discussed obtaining input from developers and tree removal companies before finalizing the proposal. The chair requested that the Law Department begin preparing a draft ordinance while stakeholder outreach and additional analysis continue. The committee scheduled its next meeting for July 28, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned: 1:58 p.m

[MIN_SIGNATURES]