



## Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

TOWN HALL \* PO BOX 150 \* 1019 MAIN ST. \* BRANFORD, CT 06405  
203-315-0675 \* FAX 203-889-3172 \* [inlandwetlands@branford-ct.gov](mailto:inlandwetlands@branford-ct.gov)



### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

Thursday, June 26, 2025 at 7:00 PM

This meeting was held remotely via ZOOM.

- 1) **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Acting Chairperson S. Botta.
- 2) **ROLL CALL:** Acting Chairperson S. Botta, Commissioners C. Begemann, R. Mirsky, D. Goclowski, M. Papantones (joined at 7:04 pm) and J. Meinsen (joined at 7:20 pm). Also present was IW Staff J. Frederick and K. Blanchette
- 3) **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**
  - a) May 22, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes-Commissioner D. Goclowski made a motion to approve the minutes as written for May 22, 2025. Commissioner C. Begemann seconded the motion. Motion carried (3-0-1) Botta abstained  
Commissioner M. Papantones arrived and was seated.
- 4) **APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW:**
  - a) IW#25.05.01 | 8 Orchard Ave | Replacement of privately owned bridge-Paul Muniz, VP of the Hotchkiss Grove Shore District was present for the applicant. The application was reviewed initially at the last meeting, and some revisions were done at the request of the commission and Town Engineer. The bridge has been narrowed, and as a result, so have the bridge abutments. The town engineer had concerns regarding sewer line depth in regards to the digging and requested that a test pit be done. They are proposing doing the test pit as the first step in the construction sequence, as there are some concerns over stability of the bank from digging the test pit.  
Commissioner J. Meinsen arrived and was seated.  
Doing the test pit as the first step in construction will limit the time of possible instability of the site. Commission requested that the proposed changes be made to the actual site plans to ensure clarity and compliance during construction. The applicant agreed. Commissioner C. Begemann made a motion to approve the application with the conditions outlined in the staff report for the meeting dated June 26, 2025, along with the revision of condition #2 to state that erosion and sedimentation measures and clarification on details for the rip rap be added to a revised site plan, which is to be reviewed and approved by the Duly Authorized Agent prior to construction. Commissioner D. Goclowski seconded. Roll Call Vote:  
C. Begemann-aye  
D. Goclowski-aye  
R. Mirsky-aye  
M. Papantones-aye  
J. Meinsen-aye  
S. Botta-aye  
Motion carried unanimously

## 5) ENFORCEMENT:

- a) Notice of Violation | 71 Midwood Rd | vegetation removal and minor activities adjacent to and within wetland -IW Agent J. Frederick reviewed the violation with the commission, which involved clearing within the wetland area. The Commission questioned the use of the fencing material and a timeline for removal. Staff noted that there is a property dispute with the neighbor. Commission requested that the fence be removed as soon as the property dispute is resolved, as there is concern about the fencing breaking down as it is not intended to be used long term. Commission determined that the NOV could be closed, with the stipulation that the fencing is to be removed and that the property owner follow up/consult with the IW Agent if she wants to conduct any additional activities.
- b) CC#24.07.01 | 1, 5 and 7 Beacon Hill Rd | vegetation removal & earth disturbance within wetland and adjacent upland area
  - i) Continuation of show cause hearing-George Logan from REMA Ecological was present to review his inspection report. The area is revegetating nicely and there is no erosion into the southern wetland currently. He indicated with the revegetation that occurred, he doesn't think there is any risk for erosion. Commissioner C. Begemann made a motion to uphold and modify the Cease and Correct order, changing item #3 to continue to monitor invasives for 5 years OR until activities outlined in the permit commences. Commissioner D. Gocłowski seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- c) CC#25.05.02 | 175 Cherry Hill Rd (C4/2/2), Hosley Rd (C5/1/1) and 167 Cherry Hill Rd (D5/5/19) | failure of erosion and sedimentation control measures in association with site development
  - i) Show Cause Hearing-IW Agent J. Frederick indicated that the parties requested to continue this matter to the July 10 meeting. She indicated that she is routinely inspecting the property and corresponding with parties. There was no additional discussion.
- d) CC#25.05.01 | 329 East Main Street | failure of erosion and sedimentation control measures in association with site development
  - i) Show Cause Hearing-Cease and correct was issued due to stormwater bypassing the catch basins and discharging into the watercourse untreated. John Schmitz, PE from BL Companies was present and explained that most of the site was previously paved, and because of the removal of the pavement, the catch basins are now located higher than the ground. However, due to the pavement being removed, they believe more infiltration is occurring rather than run off due to the removal of the impervious surface. They currently have a perimeter silt fence, silt sacks in the catch basins, and sandbags for anything that bypasses the catch basins. Commission requested having the hydrodynamic separators cleaned out to make sure they are operating properly. Commission members voiced concerns regarding the use of asphalt millings on the site, as the millings leach toxins that can enter the wetland. The commission requested clarification on whether the asphalt millings on site are going to be utilized on site; if so, for what purpose. There was discussion by the commission on what constitutes "clean fill" and why asphalt millings do not fall into the category of "clean fill". The Commission requested testing

samples to assess leaching from the stockpile. J. Schmitz to gather additional information and come back for the July 10 meeting.

- e) CC#24.09.03 | 20 Huntington Dr | grading and vegetation removal (understory) within 100' of a wetland
  - i) Continuation of show cause hearing-IW Agent J. Frederick reported that the area has been revegetated although there is quite a bit of mugwort. The removal of the mugwort would destabilize the area and potentially cause erosion to occur, so she did not recommend removal at this time. It was recommended that the order be lifted. Commissioner C. Begemann made a motion to lift Cease and Correct order CC#24.09.03. Commissioner R. Mirsky seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
- f) Notice of Violation & CC#22.06.01 | 20 Huntington Drive | regulated activities without a permit
  - i) Site status update-IW Agent J. Frederick reported that the area was replanted and a 1-year monitoring report is due in the Fall. After the required monitoring reports are received, it will be brought back to the commission to determine whether the Cease and Correct order should be lifted.
- g) CC#24.09.02 | 170-182 Leetes Island Rd | clearing and earth disturbance without a permit
  - i) Continuation of Show cause hearing-IW Agent J. Frederick gave an overview of the history of the violation. Property owner Richard Onofrio was present and reviewed the sketch he submitted with the commission. His plan is to harvest maple syrup from the trees on his property, and the clearing that was done was to create access through the site. He indicated that he also wanted to place some honeybee boxes in the wetland area and plant the wetland area with pollinator species for the honeybees. He stated that some stone was inadvertently placed in the wetland and he is willing to remove that stone and spread it elsewhere on the property if required. Commission requested that the property owner work with the enforcement officer on the items required for a plan and Jurisdictional ruling request, as the commission requested further information in order to make a determination.

**6) OTHER BUSINESS:**

**7) APPLICATIONS FOR RECEIPT:**

**8) AGENT APPROVALS:**

- a) IW#25.05.02 | 7 Valley Road | Septic system replacement-no discussion
- b) IW#25.06.01 | 2 and 4 Commercial Street | excavation for remediation-no discussion
- c) IW#25.06.02 | 214 Alps Rd (aka 18 East Village Dr) | expansion of deck-no discussion

9) **CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none

10) **ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner D. Goclowski made a motion to adjourn at 9:56 pm.  
Commissioner M. Papantones seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katy Blanchette  
IW Associate