



**MINUTES
INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES AGENCY
REGULAR MEETING**

March 4, 2025

**7:00 PM - Town Hall-Council Chambers
820 Enfield St, Enfield, CT**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTXsD0nWn04>

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Corbin-Sobinski called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. FIRE EVACUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Fire evacuation announcement was made.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Dylan Bridge, Anne Whitney Collins (via Zoom), Kelly Hemmeler, Virginia Higley, Kenneth Kaufman, Christopher Renaud, Donna Corbin Sobinski, Kevin Zorda

Absent: Robert Gillespie

Also present were Assistant Town Planner, Stephen Hiney and Recording Secretary, Rebecca Jones.

4. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION AND PETITIONS

None.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Corbin-Sobinski stated that this will be discussed under a different agenda item.

6. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

A. February 18, 2025

MOTION by: Kevin Zorda **seconded:** Dylan Bridge to approve the February 18, 2025 meeting minutes.

UPON A ROLL CALL VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: Dylan Bridge, Anne Whitney Collins, Kelly Hemmeler, Virginia Higley, Kenneth Kaufman, Kevin Zorda No: None Abstain: Donna Corbin Sobinski.

7. TOWN ATTORNEY REPORT

A. February 24, 2025

Commissioner Zorda asked why Yankee Casting is not on the attorney's report. Mr. Hiney will look into it as it is still in active litigation.

8. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

9. NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. 92 Post Office Road - Site Walk Discussion

There was a site walk on March 3, 2025 at 92 Post Office Road. Present were Commissioners Corbin-Sobinski, Hemmeler, Higley and Kaufman. Chair Corbin-Sobinski explained that she had expressed concern about the property owner bringing in soil to the site on January 10th and the silt fencing and erosion controls were poorly installed. There was a similar complaint in September 2024. Chair Corbin-Sobinski read excerpts from previous meeting minutes related to this application that highlighted statements made by the applicant related to lot clearing, soil storage and easement restrictions. Commissioner Hemmeler noticed that there was a pile of soil in the front yard that looked different from those on the sides of the yards. She also observed that the silt fence and hay bales were sloppily placed. Commissioner Kaufman explained that the lighter sand was brought in by the gas company when they were laying the pipe from the road to the house. Commissioner Kaufman noticed that the grade of the northwest corner of the lot was much lower than the rest of the property. The silt fence is down in that area and that may pose an issue with rain in the forecast. Mr. Hiney explained the grading is part of the site plan. The commissioners reviewed the site plan from May 2nd and Chair Corbin-Sobinski highlighted the contouring. Commissioner Higley recommended making the site-specific conditions more strict to avoid this going forward. Commissioner Collins asked about the status of the wetlands easement. Mr. Hiney stated that the commissioners looked for the iron pin but there it was difficult to identify exactly where the property line ended. Commissioner Zorda asked Mr. Hiney to contact the property owner to fix the silt fencing and to find out when the dirt piles will be removed. Mr. Hiney spoke with Ms. Whitten, who recommended that the commission request that the property owner hire a land surveyor to definitively mark the property lines and stake out the conservation easement. The property owner must also be reminded that he may not bring any more soil onto the site.

B. Wetlands Fines Ordinance

The commissioners must discuss the ordinance and vote to send it to the Town Council for final approval. Chair Corbin-Sobinski and Commissioner Higley will be present at the Town Council meeting to answer any questions. Commissioner Higley noted that it is well written and easy to understand. It will be used judiciously and will be used in extreme situations. This will help fund the Town of Enfield as their staff put in time and effort in issuing these

violations.

MOTION by: Kevin Zorda **seconded:** Kenneth Kaufman to accept the proposed Inlands and Wetlands enforcement for fines to be presented to the Town Council for approval.

UPON A ROLL CALL VOTE, the Chair declared the motion approved. Yes: Dylan Bridge, Anne Whitney Collins, Kelly Hemmeler, Virginia Higley, Kenneth Kaufman, Donna Corbin Sobinski, Kevin Zorda No: None Abstain: None.

12. ENFORCEMENT REPORTS

None.

13. PLANNING STAFF REPORT

The Scantic River Watershed Commission is looking for a volunteer from IWWA for a preservation project steering committee. They will be meeting via Zoom monthly. Commissioner Collins volunteered for the committee. She will then report any updates to the commission.

Mr. Hiney heard back from DEEP that the updates discussed at CACIWC is referring to a new wetlands advisory board to review and discuss the changes made between 2021 and 2024.

Planning staff are working on their budget and tablet use was discussed for this commission. No more physical materials would be received aside from site plans. All materials will be available online via Civic Clerk. Commissioner Bridge asked about safety restrictions and access to Town login credentials. The tablets will only have Wi-Fi accessibility, and commissioners are allowed to use them during the meetings. Site plans will still be delivered before the meeting.

14. APPLICATIONS TO BE RECEIVED

15. MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner Zorda shared information related to a new invasive species of insect. Jumping worms are being found in soil in Connecticut. They look like regular worms and essentially destroy the organic matter in the topsoil, which rids the soil of nutrients. They are difficult to eradicate and very invasive. He recommended commissioners look into this and be aware that this can be found in topsoil. They are killed by a mustard-based liquid.

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by: Virginia Higley, seconded: Kenneth Kaufman to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared the motion adopted unanimously, and the meeting stood adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Higley
Secretary

Rebecca Jones
Recording Secretary