

INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 13, 2026 – 6:30PM (REMOTE)

- 1 1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm.
- 2
- 3 2. Roll Call. Present: Vivian Garfein, Larry Burcroff, Russ Conklin, Sally Spillane, John Harney,
- 4 Tracy Brown, Abby Conroy (Land Use Director, Miles Todaro (Land Use Tech Specialist) and
- 5 Georgia Petry (Recording Secretary). Absent: Maria Grace
- 6
- 7 3. **Approval of Agenda. So Moved** by S. Spillane, seconded by J. Harney, **With All in Favor.**
- 8
- 9 4. **Minutes of March 23, 2026. A Motion to Approve** was made by L. Burcroff, seconded by J.
- 10 Harney, **With All in Favor.**
- 11
- 12 5. **Minutes of March 30, 2026 (Special Meeting). A Motion to Approve** was made by S.
- 13 Spillane, seconded by R. Conklin, **With All in Favor.**
- 14
- 15 6. Public Comment – None
- 16
- 17 7. #IWWC-26-15 / 80 Brinton Hill Road / Map 08, Lot 21 / Owner/Applicant: Cory & Meredith
- 18 Murphy / Stump Removal / DOR: 04/13/2026
- 19 V. Garfein wants to see a site plan with wetlands delineations. A. Conroy noted that Cory
- 20 Murphy would have Greg Murphy do the overhead drone shots; Cory Murphy responded he
- 21 would be happy to have Greg Murphy do those. V. Garfein would like the information for
- 22 the next meeting. R. Conklin asked about grading in the area; Mr. Murphy answered that it
- 23 would be gentle grading to remove the stumps. S. Spillane asked what the goal is; Mr.
- 24 Murphy answered it is to open it up and make it beautiful, with the grass mowed 3-4 times
- 25 per year. S. Spillane, L. Burcroff and T. Brown want a site visit. S. Spillane asked how many
- 26 acres it is; Mr. Murphy answered 4 to 6 acres. T. Brown asked how many stumps there are;
- 27 Mr. Murphy answered about 20 that would be completely pulled out and removed, raked,
- 28 hydro-seeded and cleaned up, as there are more ticks than ever. The site visit was
- 29 scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:30pm.
- 30
- 31 8. #IWWC-26-18 / 70 Beaver Dam Road and 47 Hammertown Road / Map 23, Lots 52 and 36 /
- 32 Owner: Raccard Properties, LLC / Applicant: Mike Pruss / Request for Jurisdictional ruling for

33 prescribed burn of 15 acres in established upland native grass field (historically farmed for  
34 corn and hay) for ecological restoration and agriculture / DOR: 04/13/2026  
35 The ruling is being requested for Section 4.2, operations in uses permitted as of right and  
36 Section 4.3, operations and uses permitted as non-regulated uses. A. Conroy explained that  
37 the stated objective here is to restore the soil and plants. R. Conklin asked about burning  
38 permits which are issued for residential use only with burning of grass not permitted and if  
39 there is another permit issued for a controlled burn of a grass field; the Town has stricter  
40 limits on what you can burn than the State. Mike Pruss responded that the plan was  
41 developed to not follow the Town's stricter requirements, because it is too restrictive to do  
42 the prescribed burn on that type of habitat site; they are looking at it as a training fire for  
43 the State and local fire crews, but haven't figured it out yet. R. Conklin commented that a  
44 prescribed burn is permitted by the State, but doesn't know what the process is for it. A.  
45 Conroy commented that this request may not be within the purview of the IWWC; can the  
46 dots be connected for the agricultural operation and or for conservation. R. Conklin  
47 commented that agriculture is not a residential use. Mr. Pruss added that the State has  
48 reviewed the plan, but does not have a lot of experience with prescribed burns on private  
49 lands. V. Garfein asked why not change the application to a training burn and do it under  
50 the State training burns allowed; Mr. Pruss responded that it could be done that way, but  
51 they would like to have this as a tool for restoration activities in the future to do on their  
52 own with their staff and equipment. Mr. Pruss added that they are in no hurry for this  
53 spring; it's a process he would like to look at from both angles. V. Garfein commented that  
54 the application could be received and looked at more closely. R. Conklin commented that  
55 somebody else needs to review the plan, besides the applicant. A. Conroy expressed that  
56 she was not sure about the Commission's direction on this; for a jurisdictional ruling, the  
57 question is whether this activity constitutes agriculture. A. Conroy asked if it could be either  
58 or, that is, if the State says yes, prescribed burning is an effective land management strategy  
59 for conservation and/or agriculture; R. Conklin wants someone from the State to agree to  
60 that. V. Garfein commented that the application is being received; get something in writing  
61 from the State. L. Burcroff asked about wetlands delineations for the plan; Mr. Pruss  
62 indicated that he has them and added that he could move the burn line outside of the 150'  
63 URA to be easier, but would like to include more vegetation from the previous fields. A.  
64 Conroy noted the 2 items requested by the IWWC for more information at the next meeting.

65  
66 9. #IWWC-26-16 / 25 Morgan Lane / Map 64, Lot 06 / Owner: Meghna and Brian McDevitt /  
67 Applicant: Todd Parsons, Haley Ward / Construct an addition to the main house and  
68 construct an office above the existing garage / DOR: 04/13/2026  
69 Brian McDevitt and Todd Parsons described the plans in detail. R. Conklin asked if the  
70 propane tank is buried; Mr. Parsons answered yes. S. Spillane asked to see the planting plan  
71 and asked if any trees would be cut down; Mr. Parsons responded that they did not  
72 anticipate cutting any trees. S. Spillane asked about sediment control; Mr. Parsons  
73 described what is planned, including a construction fence. A. Conroy asked if this plan

74 should be referred to Tom Grimaldi; V. Garfein and R. Conklin did not think so. S. Spillane  
75 suggested planting the buffer before construction; Mr. Parsons responded that it would be  
76 planted when the timing permits, outside of construction. The application was received.  
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78 10. #IWC-26-17 / 166 Main Street and Vincent Preserve / Map 52, Lot 14 and Map 11, Lot 20 /  
79 Owner: Kames Demmer & Velda Brown, and Salisbury Association Land Trust / Applicant:  
80 Robert Colabella, Haley Ward / Construct New Concrete Sidewalk / DOR: 04/13/2026  
81 V. Garfein asked to see a location map for the proposed sidewalk. Robert Colabella, Project  
82 Manager for Haley Ward, representing the applicant, the Town of Salisbury, described the  
83 project in detail. Mr. Colabella described the location of the proposed sidewalk as beginning  
84 where the existing sidewalk in Salisbury ends, with this portion continuing the connection  
85 towards Lakeville; the excavation and disturbance was also described. S. Spillane  
86 commented that review by Tom Grimaldi wasn't needed. L. Burcroff asked if there was  
87 paperwork from the State review; Mr. Colabella answered yes, they have been submitted to  
88 the Town. The application was received.  
89

90 11. #IWWC-26-19 / 273 Weatogue Road / Map 25, Lot 18 / Owner/Applicant: Estelina Dallett /  
91 Agent: Jessica Toro / Request for jurisdictional ruling for invasive plant management / DOR:  
92 04/13/2026  
93 Jessica Toro described the invasive plant management plan for the site. S. Spillane  
94 commented that there is so much bittersweet, soon there won't be a tree left. S. Spillane  
95 and J. Harney agreed that this could be a jurisdictional ruling. A. Conroy explained how the  
96 control of invasive plant species promotes the native plants, the activity is considered As-of-  
97 Right under CT State Statute and exempt from IWW Regulations, but people do have to  
98 make a request. A. Conroy also explained the language of the online application questions,  
99 for future reference. V. Garfein noted that the request for Jurisdictional Ruling for non-  
100 regulated use was correct. **A Motion to Deem the Use Exempt, as a Non-Regulated Use of**  
101 **Wetlands & Watercourses**, was made by S. Spillane, seconded by J. Harney, **With All in**  
102 **Favor.**  
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104 12. #IWWC-26-11 / 32 Valley Road / Map 02, Lot 41 / Owner/Applicant: Trudy Kramer / Agent:  
105 Cole Leibrock / Fill in Existing Man-made Pond / DOR: 02/23/2026  
106 It was note by A. Conroy that T. Brown had pointed out that filling in the wetland would  
107 require additional permitting, not just local. A. Conroy commented that the applicant  
108 probably would not want to do that and that T. Brown had suggested just letting the pond  
109 fill in naturally with vegetation. A. Conroy talked about observations from the site visit,  
110 which included that water is no longer filling the pond and other details about the current  
111 conditions. T. Brown commented on the pond elevation, possible destabilization, and  
112 planting to cover up the visual impact of the pond. S. Spillane suggested it would be great  
113 to plant in to suck up the water, get rid of the black plastic, stop the inlet, and clean the out-  
114 flow. Cole Leibrock commented that he would discuss planting as a next step; S. Spillane

115 would like to see a planting plan. T. Brown commented that work in the river would require  
116 permitting; her suggestion was to block off the flow and restore the inlet. A. Conroy  
117 commented that the plastic-lined channel inlet may not be considered a wetland; the rocks  
118 could be removed and the area mowed. V. Garfein wants a simple proposal that could be  
119 put into a permit. Mr. Leibrock asked about a next step; T. Brown pointed out that filling in  
120 a wetland would require an Army Corps of Engineers permit. A. Conroy noted that the  
121 timeline for a decision is April 29, 2026; V. Garfein would like an extension of time, unless a  
122 modified application can be submitted before April 27, 2026.

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- 124 13. #IWWC-26-8 / 11 Route 7 / Map 04, Lot 31-1 / Owner: Delbert L Auray Jr Trustee /  
125 Applicant: Patrick Mulberry / Construction of New Garage/Workshop with One Bedroom  
126 Living Quarters / DOR: 02/09/2026  
127 Pending Consulting Engineer Review  
128
- 129 14. 11 Route 7 / Map 04, Lot 31-1 / Owner: Delbert L Auray Jr Trustee / Agent: Patrick Mulberry  
130 / Discussion of consent order to remedy unpermitted regulated clearing activities  
131 The Consent Order was sent to all parties by A. Conroy; an escrow is required for a third  
132 party review. Mr. Mulberry commented that he had uploaded the signed Consent Order; A.  
133 Conroy reviewed the details, including the delineation of the wetlands and the Town line.  
134 Mr. Mulberry commented that they would be using Jay Fain for their soil scientist and  
135 environmental professional. Mr. Mulberry commented that they are waiting to hear from  
136 Jay Fain about committing to start the job; they will advise the IWWC about possible  
137 submittal dates. R. Conklin asked what activity could happen between now and May 21,  
138 2026; A. Conroy commented that there could be a meeting of professionals in the field. A.  
139 Conroy noted that the application process has to occur separately from the enforcement  
140 process; V. Garfein pointed out that they are waiting for the engineering review in order to  
141 proceed on the application.

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143 **Adjournment. So Moved** by S. Spillane, seconded by J. Harney, **With All in Favor**. The  
144 meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.

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