

Received 10/21/25
1:26 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

**DURHAM INLAND WETLANDS
and
WATERCOURSES AGENCY
Durham, CT 06422
Durham Town Hall
Minutes of October 20, 2025, Regular Meeting**

Frank DeFelice, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call:

In attendance: Phil Augur, Chris Balay, Michael Dahlheimer, Frank DeFelice, Mark Laudano, Jim Martinelli, Noah Ventola, Joe Carta (WEO)

Absent: Chris Meisenkothen, Gene Riotte, Cory Tyler

Seating of Alternates

N. Ventola was seated for C. Meisenkothen and J. Martinelli was seated for G. Riotte.

Amendments to Agenda

None.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by P. Augur, seconded by M. Dahlheimer, to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by C. Balay, seconded by M. Laudano, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2025, Regular Meeting. All ayes with J. Martinelli and M. Dahlheimer in abstention. Motion passed.

Public Session

None.

Discussion: Caturano Violation

F. DeFelice read the Cease-and-Desist Order into record. The following was discussed:

- Jim Sipperly, Soil Scientist, was hired by A. Caturano.
- J. Carta met with J. Sipperly and A. Caturano at the property earlier in the week.
- A post hole digger was used to reach native soils.
- Five holes were completed, each revealed approximately 12" of fill over the native soils, wetland soils found in all. Fifteen additional test holes were marked on the property.
- J. Carta stated that the terrain indicates the lower area was historically wetlands.
- J. Carta suggested fill be pulled back.
- Silt fence correctly installed at the stream and southern fill pulled back.
- Continuous circular silt fence to be installed around all fill piles.
- A. Caturano reported 60-70 truckloads of material delivered, 16-18 cubic yards, estimated 1000 cubic yards total.
- Cherry Hill Construction was the carrier, Tom Arrigoni operated the bulldozer.
- Waiting for results of the remaining 15 holes to finalize plans.
- J. Sipperly's letter, read into record, will be provided for file.
- Silt fence will be installed around piles Wednesday morning.
- On October 21st J. Sipperly will examine new holes and report findings.

Receipt of Applications:

- a. Town of Durham, Widening of Roadway within 100' of wetlands, Birch Mill Rd., Assessor's Map 68, Lot 08.

F. DeFelice stated that a soil scientist flagged the wetlands. He and J. Carta reviewed the flagged areas and believe a significant wetland area at the front of the property was missing. They agree that the oval-shaped area in the corner should also be classified as a wetland area. The plan provided shows this area as a wetland and shows the proposed widening of Birch Mill Rd. for parking.

A motion was made by C. Balay, seconded by M. Laudano, to set a public hearing for November 10, 2025, for the application from the Town of Durham, Widening of Roadway within 100' of wetlands, Birch Mill Rd., Assessor's Map 68, Lot 08. All ayes. Motion passed.

Enforcement Officer's Report

- Creamery Rd. horse farm, drainage issue
- 329 Parmelee Hill Rd.-new building lot
- 980 New Haven Rd.
- Vynalek, Blue Hills Rd.-clean out pond

Payment of Bills

- a. J. Carta, WEO, April 1, 2025-September 30, 2025, \$1575.00

A motion was made by C. Balay, seconded by J. Martinelli, to payment of bill. All ayes. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous

F. DeFelice reported that a state working group has been established in Hartford to review riparian area protection standards, following a bill introduced last session. He was invited to participate and attended the first meeting; a second meeting is scheduled for Wednesday. He will keep the Commission informed as discussions progress.

Adjournment

A motion was made by P. Augur, seconded by N. Ventola, to adjourn. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Perry

To view meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9678123456?pwd=ZToywZ9SH0kIrVswQVF0CNUgEYVe1Mp7uTMzNrYR8z0lYy9yKVbYvX9FnPsTYH7wC.s6IApHUe_XAINsoS