

**DURHAM INLAND WETLANDS
and
WATERCOURSES AGENCY
Durham, CT 06422
Durham Town Hall**

Minutes of January 12, 2026, Regular Meeting

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

Roll Call:

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

Seating of Alternates

None.

Amendments to Agenda

None.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by C. Balay, seconded by G. Riotte, to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025, Regular Meeting. All ayes with N. Ventola in abstention. Motion passed.

Public Session

R. Parmelee stated that Tilcon has been operating in Town for many years and provided a brief history of its presence. He noted that Tilcon has been an asset to the community and expressed his support for the application.

Discussion: Caturano Violation

Alfonso Caturano and Mr. Sipperly were present to provide an update on the ongoing activity at the site. Mr. Sipperly stated that he was contacted by Mr. Caturano to determine the amount of fill placed within the wetland area. Using a gas-powered auger, Mr. Sipperly excavated several test holes. A map prepared by Chris Juliano was reviewed, and Mr. Sipperly discussed the results of the test holes. Based on these findings, an area was flagged that requires removal of fill from the wetland. Proposed remediation measures were discussed.

F. DeFelice stated that a survey is required showing the location of the test points, existing stockpiles, current site conditions, and original grades, all to scale. Additional discussion followed regarding the depth of fill, modeling below the original grade, and the test hole findings.

A. Caturano shall have C. Juliano prepare and submit a scaled, accurate survey plan showing test hole locations and depths, modeling, original and existing ground surfaces, stockpiles, and a profile/elevation drawing of the wetland violation area. This information shall be submitted for review at the next meeting.

Receipt of Applications:

- a. J. & D. Mesick, Construction of well, septic system, driveway, scour pad, and associated clearing within 100' of a wetland, Shunpike Rd. and Madison Rd., Assessor's Map 90, Lot 14

Tilcon, Inc., Remove two wetland areas for future quarry activity, Wallingford Rd., Assessor's Map 43, Lot 5

Pat Benjamin, Civil Engineer, Durham, CT, was present to speak on the application. Mr. Benjamin explained that Tilcon is proposing the removal of two small wetland areas. A map was presented and reviewed with the Commission, identifying the quarry area, its edge, and the location of the crusher. A brief site history was also provided. The wetland areas under discussion were identified on the map and described as extremely remote and not vernal pools.

A wetlands report prepared by Eric Davison of Davison Environmental was submitted and reviewed. The report indicates that the two isolated wetland areas total approximately 1,100 square feet. Mr. Benjamin noted that remediation is not feasible due to the presence of ledge and rock throughout the area. The proposed project and associated fees were discussed.

A motion was made by C. Balay, seconded by P. Augur that there is an impact to the wetlands. All ayes. Motion passed.

A motion was made by G. Riotte, seconded by C. Meisenkothen to approve the application of Tilcon, Inc., remove two wetland areas for future quarry activity, Wallingford Rd., Assessor's Map 43, Lot 5. All ayes. Motion passed.

Enforcement Officer's Report

J. Carta reported on the following:

- 161 Guilford Rd., construction of a garage
- Howd Rd., installation of a pickle ball court
- 30R Turkey Hill Rd.

Payment of Bills

A motion was made by C. Meisenkothen, seconded by G. Riotte, to approve payment of J. Carta, WEO, October-December 2025, \$1845.00. All ayes. Motion passed.

Miscellaneous

F. DeFelice provided an update on a riparian area project in which he has been participating. He stated that a report will be prepared and submitted to the legislature. The Commission engaged in a brief discussion regarding the project.

F. DeFelice also informed the Commission about the Town's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, noting that a new plan will be developed in 2026.

Adjournment

A motion was made by C. Meisenkothen, seconded by C. Balay, to adjourn. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Perry

To view meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/2l_PRDfhWCJ0wVRutGXG00lawB14UDVRCsliuA7ZPadZfrHX_QCWsXfVyC3Ybwrv.cEhtfNwoTVUELENn