

LITCHFIELD INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 12, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Annex, 80 Doyle Road, Bantam
In Person Meeting

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Robert Blazek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Susan Clarkin, Robert Blazek, Mike LoRusso, Jack Hamill. Also present were Spencer Musselman, Wetlands Agent, and Ann Combs, Recording Secretary.

Members Absent: Martin Connor, William Dooley

Appointment of Alternates: None

Motion: J. Hamill moved and S. Clarkin seconded a motion to add to the agenda as Item 7a. “2026 Inland Wetlands Meeting Calendar”. All voted aye and the motion passed.

2. Application Considerations

a. Crichton – 44 Whiskers Lane – Improvement of an existing farm road into a driveway. Work is to include the installation of a culvert to maintain surface flow. MBL #015-030-017

Ryan Crichton explained that he wants to build a house. The land is currently a farm on 40 acres, and he wants to subdivide, leaving 21 acres for his family to maintain as a farm. He needs to go through wetlands in order to build on top of the hill. The 1800 ft. driveway will follow an existing farm road 150 ft. through a wooded area and to the culvert before entering a marshy wetlands area. It will continue up an open field to the house site. It becomes a stream farther down in the wetlands, but they did not want to disturb the stream. They will put in a box culvert, fabric and riprap. The stockpile area has been added to the map outside the 100 ft. upland review area. The stockpile material will go back into building the remainder of the driveway. Gravel will be added to the 12 ft. wide driveway where needed. The old farm road has been there since the 1940s and has gravel underneath. He will add more 3” stone and pea stone gravel for the base of the driveway through the wetlands. S. Musselman said it is a good plan for the culvert and crossing and the construction notes are on the plans. Mr. Crichton will contact Spencer when he knows who the general contractor will be. He would like to begin work in March or April.

Motion: J. Hamill moved and S. Clarkin seconded a motion to approve the application by Ryan

Crichton, 44 Whiskers Lane, for construction of a road and culvert in a regulated area and up to their house, detailed on a map prepared for Ryan Crichton and dated 3/10/25, revised showing the stockpile area 11/12/25. All voted aye and the motion carried.

b. Beatty – 288 North Lake Street - Construction of 150 ft. of elevated boardwalk with no grading, excavation, or associated clearing. Boardwalk to be laid on existing path and pinned on the down gradient side with locust timber. MBL #194-044-028

Robin Zitter represented Kathleen and Mike Beatty. They would like an access through a wetland area via a raised walkway. They have sewn the area with a wetland mix that has taken well. It can be damp through the seeded area, so they are proposing 2' x 10' locust crib frames that would sit on the ground with the planks on top. Only the pins that hold the locust planks down go into ground. All building will be done well out of the wetlands area and materials carried in. They plan to do this in the winter. This walkway should last 15 – 20 years.

Motion: S. Clarkin moved to approve the application of Beatty, 288 North Lake Street, for approximately 150 ft. of walkway through the wetlands that will be built in multiple sections from 2x4s that are timberlock fastened to form 2' x 10' frames with a middle brace, and per map dated 9/30/79. This project involves no excavation or erosion controls. J. Hamill seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried.

3. Application Receptions

a. Cantor – Blue Swamp Road – Alteration to existing driveway path and associated utilities trenching within the regulated area. MBL #152-078-001

Richard Crouch represented owner Pam Cantor. He explained that the driveway comes in and through a field. They would like to move it over to the adjacent stone wall so they can hay the whole field. There will then be two points where it enters the regulated area. Utility trenching will follow the driveway on the uphill side with silt fence on the downhill side. The driveway will be process stone with no paving. Soils will be swapped from the old driveway to the new. Soils will be stockpiled inside the building envelope but outside the regulated area. He'd like to start now, weather dependent and approval from Eversource for electrical trenching. Permission is granted for Commissioners to visit the property.

b. Tyrrell – 80 Milton Road – Dredging of pond and removal of invasive phragmites. MBL #123-057-006

Dan Tyrrell said the contractor sprayed the phragmites but he wants to also dig out the roots and truck them out. If left untreated, his whole front yard would wash away. He has had a sinkhole in his front yard from the runoff. He will use an excavator and just dredge to remove the phragmites on one end, with stockpile area ready.

Motion: J. Hamill moved to direct S. Musselman to conduct an agent determination for the above pond work, and M. LoRusso seconded. All voted aye and the motion carried.

5. Inland Wetlands Agent Report: S. Musselman reported his concern with vacancies in the membership. S. Clarkin brought Kelsey Kerr to the meeting to observe.

6. Approval of Minutes – October 8, 2025: Approval was postponed for a quorum that also attended the 10/8/25 meeting.

7. Correspondence: 10/27/25 memo from Todd Parsons, PE, to the Town Re Iffland Pond Dam Removal.

7a. 2026 IWC Meeting Calendar: S. Musselman said he won't be here for the Feb. meeting. **Motion:** J. Hamill moved to approve the 11/12/25 memo outlining the IWC meeting dates for 2026, with November's meeting on the 18th instead of the 11th. S. Clarkin seconded, all voted aye and the motion carried. It will be filed in the Clerk's office.

R. Blazek announced that this would be his last meeting, as he has sold his home and will most likely be moving out of state. He thanked everyone past and present for their hard work and dedication. Everyone praised him for his leadership and wished him well.

8. Adjournment: Motion: J. Hamill moved and M. LoRusso seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Ann D. Combs, Recording Secretary