



Town of North Canaan
Inland Wetlands Commission
January 22, 2026

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K. J. Town Clerk

Present: Chairman Matt Freund, Barry Brown, Eric Whiting, Bob Jacquier, Chris Crane, Mike O'Connor

Chairman Freund called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Mr. Whiting moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cynthia Rabinowitz of the Northwest Conservation District came to speak with the commission. Ms. Rabinowitz is a soil wetlands scientist. She gave the commission her background. Her role is to help the commission feel secure that they are approving something that should be approved. The towns in Connecticut, based on population, are supposed to pay an annual sum to their conservation district which helps keep their doors open, but does not pay for everything. They are a non-profit organization, not a state agency. Mr. O'Connor brought up the discussions that have happened in regard to setback vs upland review. Ms. Rabinowitz explained that it is technically not a setback it is an upland review area. It is an area that the commission can take more scrutiny of and have more leeway in. There was a discussion regarding the riparian buffers and native plantings. Ms. Rabinowitz explained that she is not an engineer but that she can look at an engineering plan and give some feedback. The commission should have the State of CT Stormwater Management Guidelines which came out in 2024. Chairman Freund stated that he feels this commission has been running more on their own personal education but would like the commission to be brought up to speed on things and make sure they are doing everything they need to do. Ms. Rabinowitz will gather some information and send it to the chairman including the link to the stormwater management guidelines. She can also let the commission know if something comes out from the state. Mr. Brown would like to have someone on staff that could do land management and do the reports and those types of things. The state reporting is not being done. Mr. O'Connor explained how the commission works and that they are part of the planning /zoning application so they are somewhat reliant on the ZEO. Ms. Rabinowitz feels as long as they stick to their regulations they should be ok, but she does have some concerns of them leaving themselves open for issues. A lawyer should review the regulations. Selectman Bunce stated that he has been researching the possibility of hiring a land use attorney to handle zoning and wetlands things and take those away from the town attorney. There was a discussion of trainings and having commission members take the online training.

Prior to the next meeting, the commission should review the regulations and if there is anything that needs to be discussed, reviewed, updated, changed it should be brought back to the next meeting.

Election of Officers: Mr. Whiting moved Barry Brown for Chairman. Mr. Crane seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr. O'Connor moved Eric Whiting for Vice Chairman. Mr. Jacquier moved Mike O'Connor for Vice Chairman. Votes were 2 yes for Mr. Whiting, 1 for Mr. O'Connor. Motion for Eric Whiting as Vice Chairman carried. Mr. Jacquier nominated Chris Crane for Secretary. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Town of North Canaan is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Mr. Brown read signoffs into record.

Mr. Whiting moved to adjourn. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary