



Town of North Canaan
Inland Wetlands Meeting
May 28, 2026

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

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Mr. Whiting moved to approve the minutes from last meeting. Mr. Allyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Batacchi liaison for Mr. Betts bridge project at 57 Sodom Road spoke before the commission. Mr. Batacchi stated that he is bringing project (after the fact) application as it was required by the zoning board. He presented maps to show distances between properties, etc. Mr. O'Connor explained he had spoken with Mr. Batacchi before the project and made the decision that he did not have to come before the commission – he was not pouring concrete; he sent photos to Barry and had erosion control. Mr. Batacchi stated that they finished the removal of the roadway that was used and will put seed/mulch down. There was netting and waddle in place to catch things. Mr. Freund asked in there had ever been anyone there to flag the wetlands. The Massachusetts side, yes, but not the Connecticut side. It does show that it is in the wetlands. There was a discussion of history of the property cleanup. Mr. Batacchi gave the commission the application and check. Mr. Jacquier stated that even if the river comes up it will not get trapped there like it used to. Mr. Freund explained that he felt Mr. Batacchi should have come before the board prior to building the bridge. Mr. O'Connor felt that it did not have to come to the board which is why he advised him differently to begin with. **Mr. Freund moved to accept the application. Mr. Allyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.** Mr. O'Connor explained the reason that he did not feel it needed to come before the commission was because he considered it landscaping and cited Section 4D. There was a brief discussion regarding when to signoff and when someone has to appear. There was also a discussion regarding the use of Aquaside for ponds.

A resident from Moses Mead Road came before the commission to ask about people/companies taking water off sides of road. She recently witnessed a Massachusetts truck with a hose removing water from a source close to the road and then she witnessed a Peerless Tree truck doing the same thing later. The commission explained that it is legal and there is nothing to prevent anyone from taking water. These companies (landscapers,

etc.) pick convenient areas to fill up their tanks (usually no more than 500 gallons) to mix with things like fertilizer or grass seed, etc. As areas begin to dry up they will go elsewhere.

Chairman Brown stated he has begun writing up some things that he feels needs to be done for the Wetlands Commission.

- Wetlands manual to show what needs to be done for wetlands so others know when the chairman is not available, etc.
- Regulations – would like a good PDF copy of it. Mr. O’Connor suggested that each member be given a printed copy of it.
- Discussion regarding updated wetland maps and areal photos. Mr. Whiting stated things change over the years. Maybe get updated map from the conservation lady that was here a few meetings ago.
- Continuing education – online. Chairman Brown wants to talk to Selectman Bunce to make sure commission is compliant. Discussion of DEEP special program.
- Regulations – suggestion to review sections as a standing agenda item (do not need to meet ONLY for regulations). Chairman Brown would like everyone to look at the first section before the next meeting. Mr. O’Connor would like everyone to think about what the commission thinks the definition of a wetland is and what a water source is.

Signoffs: There were no commission signoffs.

Correspondence: Annual report letter from Mintek. Without having last years’ report it is difficult to see what if anything has changed. Mr. Freund will ask them for a running tally especially for the PH which seems high. He will request a 5 year trend and site location.

Mr. O’Connor stated that he wishes to resign as inspector due to personal reasons and lack of time. This was voluntary so nothing formally needs to be done.

Mr. Whiting moved to adjourn. Mr. Allyn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ayrslea A Odell

Recording Secretary

Received for Record
5/29/26 12:54pm



Town Clerk