

**Town of Thomaston
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes-May 27, 2026**

Present: Tony Samela, Chair; Joe Fainer, Vice Chair; Richard Chandon, Secretary;
Tom Williams, Alternate

Absent: Nathan Vieira, Tanya Galpin

Also Present: Tony Adili, Land Use Administrator/WEO; Sara Walker, Recording Secretary;
James Newton, Thomaston High School Science Teacher

Call to Order: 7:00PM

Public Hearing: None

Minutes:

March 25, 2026, Regular Meeting

MOTION made by R. Chandon, Seconded by T. Williams to APPROVE the Minutes of March 25, 2026, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- A. RPOCD Update: T. Adili reports there is one more Focus Group, and Thomaston has had good representation from staff.
- B. Conservation: Nothing new

New Business:

- A. Review of Open Permits -The Commission was provided with a list of open permits for Wetlands. Chair Samela asked about the Old Northfield Road Project, T. Adili reports there is some reengineering being done per CT DEEP. T. Adili states he will inform the First Selectman to apply for a Wetlands Permit before the RFP goes through since there is required Remediation of Wetland area downstream which is beyond the scope of the current permit. T. Adili went through and gave a brief synopsis of what is being worked on, which permits expire soon and which were completed but never closed officially. The Tilson Property on Old Northfield Road was reported to not have a silt fence up, after a conversation with the WEO. Discussion ensued.
Chair Samela commended Land Use Administrator/WEO for all the work he put in assembling the list of Open Permits and following up on the Permits that were likely closed but never marked as such.
- B. Review of By-laws-Commission members were given a copy of the By-laws with proposed changes highlighted. Discussion ensued. The Commission rejected changes to Section 9: Duties and Responsibilities of the Secretary. Vice Chair Fainer asked for the "Procedures for Hybrid Meetings" to be more specific,

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especially with regards to Public Hearings and the proper procedures for such hearings. T. Adili will make all changes requested for the next regular IWWC meeting.

Communications and Bills:

- A. Grants: Rec Trails and DOT Micro Grant: T. Adili reports the Town won a \$5000 DOT Micro Grant. No word on RECTRAILS Grant.

Reports of Officers, Staff, and Committees:

- A. IWWC Report: T. Adili reports town staff are working with NVCOG on a Storm Water Management Grant.
- B. Review of Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Fee Income and Legal Budget-No budget was provided; T. Adili reports the budget is 80% with 5 weeks left in the fiscal year. He will bring a final report to the next meeting.

Chair Samela noted a gentleman in the audience; and asked if he had business with this Commission or just observing. The gentleman identified himself as James Newton, a Science Teacher at Thomaston High School. He asked if he could speak about the Science Club and exposing the students to jobs in the community. He states they recently studied watersheds, and he is interested in bringing the students to an IWWC Meeting to see the process. He also inquired about the high school property and what area may be available to explore, for future Science Club Projects. Discussion ensued. Mr. Newton was directed to the Land Use Office to more closely explore the high school property and its possible uses. And that he and his students are welcome to come to meetings anytime.

Adjournment:

MOTION made by R. Chandon, Seconded by T. Williams to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:55PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Walker
Recording Secretary