

**Town of Thomaston
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes-June 24, 2026**

Present: Tony Samela, Chair; Joe Fainer, Vice Chair; Tanya Galpin, Tom Williams, Alternate

Absent: Nathan Vieira, Richard Chandon, Secretary

Also Present: Tony Adili, Land Use Administrator/WEO; Sara Walker, Recording Secretary

Call to Order: 7:00PM

Public Hearing: None

Minutes:

May 27, 2026, Regular Meeting

MOTION made by J. Fainer, Seconded by T. Williams to APPROVE the Minutes of May 27, 2026, Regular Meeting as presented. Motion passed with 1 abstained (T. Galpin).

Old Business:

- A. 380 Old Northfield Road-T. Adili sent commissioners a detailed email from Tighe and Bond regarding a proposed mitigation site of 608 linear feet as required by CT DEEP, along Branch Brook behind the WPCA building. DEEP has agreed to the site; Tighe and Bond are working on the engineering. The next step once engineering is approved; would be to find a contractor and determine the cost. Discussion ensued.
The Commissioners asked T. Adili to let the town know this does not fall under the General Permit issued. A permit will be needed before any work, and a public hearing will be required to maintain transparency. They also asked T. Adili to track the costs of this project. So, in the future these same costly mistakes are not made. It was noted that the original project at this address was undertaken without permit, permission, or notification of any kind. And that a permit was sought 3 years after the damage was done.
- B. RPOCD Update-T. Adili reports the last Focus Group is on July 7, 2026, and then they will begin crafting the Plan.
- C. Conservation: State has opened the Grant to buy open space and watershed areas. J. Fainer asked what is available. T. Adili points out this grant is for the purchase of open space only; he mentioned there is an additional grant to start a community garden; but the town is not ready with a plan at this time.
- D. By-Laws: T. Adili reports he has adjusted the Table of Contents to add Annual Meeting. And added Section 26 Hybrid Meetings.
Discussion of Alternates voting for officers, which the Commission agreed they would like to keep. T. Williams gave T. Adili some notes to review. The Commission

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agreed to consider these and other changes at the Annual Meeting but to keep on the agenda for next month.

- E. Open Permits: T. Adili reports he spoke to Mr. Tilson earlier this day about the lack of silt fence; for which Mr. Tilson said he will put it in next week. His permit only has a few months left, T. Adili reports.

Chair Samela reports on a sojourn this week the two bridges on Carter Road which were engineered two or three years ago; one was completed and the other was never worked on. T. Galpin interjects that the second one may have been tabled. The bridge that was repaired is closest to 371 Carter Road; the other is approximately 500 feet up from that. The Commission reviewed the area on the GIS Map with T. Adili. The WEO will investigate the bridge work and report back.

T. Williams reports that he has found the Dug Road Property. And would like to explore it. The only access point appears to be through the cemetery, and that has a locked gate with a STOP sign. He questioned whether he was allowed to walk the property since that is the only way in. Commission members pointed out it is public property; and to use normal hiking precautions for a densely wooded area with rough terrain. Adili brings up that Steve Dunskey owns the property abutting the Dug Road Property and that if the town bought a small piece of his land, it would create an access point from the 254 side.

New Business: None

Communications and Bills:

- A. Grants: Rec Trails: No Award yet.

Reports of Officers, Staff, and Committees:

- A. IWWC Report: Nothing to report.
- B. Review of Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Fee Income and Legal Budget-T. Adili reports the budget looks great 89% with 1 week left in the fiscal year.

Chair Samela states he would like to entertain a motion to modify the agenda to discuss the General Permits issued to the Highway Department and the Sewer Department.

MOTION made by J. Fainer, Seconded by T. Galpin to ADD a discussion of Open Permits Issued to the Thomaston Highway Department and the WPCA. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Samela states he has noted the spraying of herbicide. And asked if that was considered a part of the General Permit issued. The WEO and Vice Chair agreed that is not a part of the general permit; the impact of herbicides cannot be undone. Discussion

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ensued. T. Galpin pointed out the Crew Leader and First Selectman who are running the Highway Department temporarily may not know the regulations. She also indicated she has noted spraying throughout town and is very close to or within wetlands. Vice Chair Fainer points out once again, that it is easier to inquire if it is allowed than to try to fix after the fact. Herbicides cannot be unsprayed; the damage is done.

Chair Samela will write a letter to First Selectman Sileo regarding the spraying of herbicide throughout town but specifically in or around wetlands and watercourses.

Adjournment:

MOTION made by T. Galpin, Seconded by T. Williams to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:36PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Walker
Recording Secretary