East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission
Land Use Office

Regular Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2026

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission was called to order by Mr. Dill at 7:30 PM at the Municipal Office Complex.

2. Attendance

Members Present: Randolph Dill, Bryan Goff, Daniel Jahne, Jennifer Burton-Reeve, David Walls, Toni Dumaine
Members Absent: Mary Augustiny
Also Present: John Paul Garcia, Gary Rogers, Molly Tassmer, Dave Shelberg, Mark Schissel, Aimee Schissel, Pat Young, Robert Lewis, Todd Gelston

Mr. Dill appointed Mr. Walls as a voting member to fill in for Ms. Augustiny and Ms. Dumaine as a voting member to fill in for Mr. Goff.

3. Approval of Minutes

6.b. Change the sentence to read, "The EH Fish and Game Club received information from a New Jersey Fish and Game Club on a better way to clear out stream debris."
4. Change the second from Mr. Jahne to Mr. Walls.

A motion by Ms. Burton-Reeve to approve the December 16, 2025, minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Goff and unanimously approved.

4. Bills

No bills.

5. Field Inspection Report

Field inspection held January 11th with one site visited: 3 Lakeside Drive. In attendance were Mr. Dill, Ms. Burton-Reeve, Ms. Dumaine and Mr. Dave Shelberg.

6. Wetlands Permit Review

a. Application #25 – 21 Millington Road, Map 70, Lot 01, East Haddam Fish and Game, restoration of cold-water habitat in the Eightmile River.

Mr. Garcia, the project engineer, provided an overview of the project and noted that the project has shifted to restore the stream, in sections, to support cold-water habitat. The dam on Geoffrey Road was just repaired and the stream starts there. There are small populations of

native brook trout. The idea started with improving the stream, using pool dredging, to make deeper pools for the fish. The goal is to use science-based methods to restore the stream to support cold-water habitat.

Mr. Lewis provided quite a bit of information related to the science of the project, and provided an overview of some of the work he has done to support river restoration. He outlined the restoration efforts, which will address the work completed during the 1940s through the 1960s that does not allow the river to flow effectively and correctly. There are a number of fish weirs that need to be removed, to allow the fish to swim to the deeper pools. Deeper pools become temperature stratified and provide habitat to preserve the fish population during the two months of the year when the river temperature is warmer. He outlined the use of rock and narrowing the channel to preserve the river's flow and habitat during periods of high water. He also discussed the dynamic environment of a stream, which is filled with organisms that survive a number of different events, i.e., storms. The work will be done starting at the top of the stream and moving downstream. One piece of heavy equipment will be used to move the rocks, and no materials will be removed from the stream. Material will be shifted to other parts of the stream to keep the net end result the same. The first section being addressed will entail the first ¾ of a mile of the river, not just the pools. There are goals outlined to measure success of the work, like lower water temperature. There is no intention of re-aligning the stream but to rework what is in the stream and what is in the channel to support the native trout population and the other organisms that are in the stream right now. The weirs will be dropped down to provide longitudinal connectivity. The work will only be done during periods of low water, typically July and August.

Mr. Ventres read an email from the DEEP in support of the project with caveats of when to conduct the work, which Mr. Garcia noted will be followed. Mr. Ventres will be notified upon the start of the project so that the Town is aware the work has begun. Mr. Lewis will be onsite working in the stream and directing the machine where to place materials during the whole project. Discussion ensued related to threatened and endangered species and the importance of knowing what they are. Mr. Lewis noted that he will get the list and keep that within the excavator onsite. Mr. Dill noted he would like to re-discuss the proposal at the next meeting. The Commissioners outlined the restrictions they would like to see in place: Mr. Ventres is notified of the project start, the work is only done during the July/August timeframe and that the turbidity curtain will be placed downstream to catch any debris. Mr. Jahne asked Mr. Garcia to add turbidity curtain to the plan and to review the projects handled in Fairfield County to add any additional information to the plan.

Motion by Mr. Dill to continue the Application #25 – 21 Millington Road, Map 70, Lot 01, East Haddam Fish and Game, restoration of cold-water habitat in the Eightmile River to the next meeting. Seconded by Mr. Walls and unanimously approved.

b. Application #25-22 3 Lakeside Drive, Map 49, Lot 051, Mark and Aimee Schissel, addition in the upland review area.

Mr. Ventres provided the revised plan and outlined a number of additions have been made per the discussion at the field walk. Mr. Dill asked for information on the gutter pipes and how the runoff will be handled. Mr. Shelberg provided further information on the plan. Excavated

material will be stockpiled in the front. The erosion control will be staked in prior to any work being done. The work will be done with a small excavator. More than likely a skid steer will be used to move the material to the front.

Motion by Mr. Goff to approve the Application #25-22 3 Lakeside Drive, Map 49, Lot 051, Mark and Aimee Schissel, addition in the upland review area, with plans dated 1/20/2026, and pictures to be provided to the Land Use Office before and after the project. Seconded by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

*c. **Application #25-23 44 WM F Palmer Rd, Map Map 65, lot 138, East Haddam Fire Department, construction for new firehouse and demolition of existing.***

Mr. Ventres noted there are wetlands on an adjacent property, and the driveway will move closer to the wetlands as the proposed building is larger than the existing building. The goal is to review the project with IWWC and P&Z for approvals first, before going to a town meeting and referendum.

Motion by Mr. Dill to continue and schedule a field walk for the Application #25-23 44 WM F Palmer Rd, Map Map 65, lot 138, East Haddam Fire Department, construction for new firehouse and demolition of existing. Seconded by Mr. Goff and unanimously approved.

7. Discussion

a. 26 Leesville Road (property location), Charles & Cathy Grillo (property owners). Map 052, Lot 032. Drainage issue

Mr. Ventres noted that he has been out of the office, and there is an interim Public Works Director who is getting into the job, so no work has been done yet.

b. Officer election

Motion by Mr. Jahne to nominate Mr. Dill to remain as Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Goff and unanimously approved.
Motion by Mr. Goff to nominate Ms. Burton-Reeve to be the new Vice Chairman. Seconded by Mr. Walls and unanimously approved.
Motion by Ms. Burton-Reeve to nominate Mr. Goff as secretary. Seconded by Mr. Jahne and unanimously approved.
Motion by Mr. Dill to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to designate Ms. Augustiny as an alternate member and Mr. Walls as a regular voting member. Seconded by Mr. Jahne and unanimously approved.

8. IWWC Enforcement Officer's Report

a. Beebe Road – Molley Brook

Mr. Ventres noted that a survey has been ordered. Mr. Angesola, interim Director of Public Works, is aware of the problem and the need to address it.

b. Proposed forestry regulations

Nothing new to report.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Goff to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jahne and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary