East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission
Land Use Office

Regular Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2025

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, Daniel Jahne, Jennifer Burton-Reeve, David Walls
Members Absent: Mary Augustiny, Bryan Goff
Also Present: James Ventres (Land Use Administrator)

Mr. Dill appointed Mr. Walls as a voting member due to 2 members' absences.

3. Approval of Minutes

Section 3: Change date of January minutes to 2025
6a. 4th line down, "now there are runoff issues that are causing the adjoining property owners to *have occasional flooding* issues"
Beebe Road – include IWWC letter
Sheepskin Hollow Road – the Town is providing the plan to the town, not the owners

A motion by Mr. Jahne to approve the March 18, 2025, minutes as amended. Seconded by Mr. Walls, and unanimously approved.

4. Bills

Halloran and Sage, $80, telephone conference on Neptune Ave issue

A motion by Mr. Jahne to approve the bills. Seconded by Mr. Walls and unanimously approved.

5. Field Inspection Report

No field inspection held.

6. Wetlands Permit Review

a. Application #IWWC – 25-03 – 39 Stocking Lot Road (property location), Robert & Elizabeth Falletti (applicant & property owner). Map 066, Lot 066. Proposed construction of a sea wall.

Mr. Ventres noted that a field walk is needed. There is an application package that Mr. Ventres will provide at the field walk.

Motion by Mr. Dill to schedule a field walk and continue the Application #IWWC – 25-03 – 39 Stocking Lot Road (property location), Robert & Elizabeth Falletti (applicant & property owner). Map 066, Lot 066. Proposed construction of a sea wall. Seconded by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

b. Application #IWWC -25-04- 74 Smith Road Unit #11 (property location), Stephen Simoncini (applicant & property owner). Map 049, Lot 009. Proposed Septic Holding Tank.

Mr. Ventres noted that a field walk is not possible because it is almost impassable given the ground thaw. A field walk is also needed after the ground firms up.

Motion by Mr. Dill to schedule a field walk and continue the Application #IWWC -25-04- 74 Smith Road Unit #11 (property location), Stephen Simoncini (applicant & property owner). Map 049, Lot 009. Proposed Septic Holding Tank. Seconded by Mr. Walls and unanimously approved.

c. Application #IWWC – 25-05 - 74 Smith Road Unit 31 (property location), Charles & Margaret Kauffman (applicants & property owners). Map 049, Lot 009. Proposed Dock Replacement.

Mr. Ventres noted that a field walk is needed, he has plans from Nathan L. Jacobsen as well. The association owns the land but the applicants own the building.

Motion by Mr. Dill to schedule a field walk and continue the Application #IWWC – 25-05 - 74 Smith Road Unit 31 (property location), Charles & Margaret Kauffman (applicants & property owners). Map 049, Lot 009. Proposed Dock Replacement. Seconded by Mr. Walls and unanimously approved.

d. Application #IWWC – 25-06 - 74 Smith Road Unit 38 (property location), Fabrina Derryberry & Jeffery Overstrom (applicants & property owners). Map 049, Lot 009. Proposed Cottage & Septic Holding Tank.

Mr. Ventres noted he has plans for this. This is a whole tear down and rebuild and is in a waste water district. DEEP looks at footprint and expansion and the bedroom count needs to remain the same. The area on the ground floor is expanded but the bedrooms are upstairs. Discussion ensued related to the process related to the cottages and the pump-out occurances.

Motion by Mr. Dill to schedule a field walk and continue the Application #IWWC – 25-06 - 74 Smith Road Unit 38 (property location), Fabrina Derryberry & Jeffery Overstrom (applicants & property owners). Map 049, Lot 009. Proposed Cottage & Septic Holding Tank. Seconded by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

7. Discussion

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

Mr. Ventres did more research and there are 3 options. He talked with the Town Attorney who noted the Town has no liability here. There is no claim to the Town, but the Town Attorney agrees it is good to help the owners find a solution.

Option 1 is to conduct a video survey of the pipe to check on its condition and then install a trash rack and clean the leaves and debris out on a regular basis. The rack is about $1300 to buy and to install it is another $1700. Then it must be maintained regularly.

Option 2 is to have a company come in and jet clean the ~200 feet of pipe, which could be about $5000 and a full day work of work. Then the trash rack will be installed.

Option 3 is to replace the entire pipe with a 24- or 36-inch pipe. Mr. Ventres called and spoke with a company which can do the pipe replacement which is about $16000 to $18000 a day. After this is done, then the trash rack is installed.

The reality is that there have been epic storms in the past, and without any leaves, the pipe works, but the issue is really the leaves clog up the pipe.

Mr. Dill noted that while the Town does not have any liability and thus requirement to fix it, it is still a wetlands issues. Whatever is decided, the IWWC must be made aware of the work. Mr. Dill asked Mr. Ventres if the owner of the property with the pipe is aware of the issues. Mr. Ventres noted he can meet with both property owners to provide the options so they can discuss. There is now an official Town Commission that has reviewed the issue, so there is something that must be addressed. If the property owner does not do anything after they are made aware, they could have an issue. Mr. Dill asked to keep this on the agenda to allow Mr. Ventres to have a conversation with both property owners and then to provide an update to the IWWC.

8. IWWC Enforcement Officer's Report

a. Beebe Road

Mr. Dill sent out the letter for review for review and feedback. Mr. Dill would like to send the letter to the Public Works Director. Mr. Ventres noted that the Public Works needs to be requested to create the As Built or they can contact Nathan L. Jacobsen or another qualified firm to create the As Built. Mr. Dill will make that change in the letter.

Mr. Ventres was a bit frustrated related to Nathan L. Jacobsen's recommendation on a dry basin being needed. Mr. Ventres went to the site and looked at it to see how the area is laid out related to the basin recommendation. At the same time, the Moodus Reservoir group is requesting that the lake be drawn down. If that happens, it gives Public Works the ability to remove the gravel and organic material and then create a basin for sediment to settle into. Mr. Dill noted that the person operating the grader needs more training as the grading is being done in areas that should not be graded.

A motion by Mr. Dill to make the changes to the letter as discussed and then send it out. Seconded by Mr. Jahne and unanimously approved.

b. Sheepskin Hollow Road/Roaring Brook Repair

Mr. Ventres noted that the consultant came back out and looked at it again. Their belief is that that system can be put together and the polymer they are using will hold it in place. It will not be necessary to put in a head wall. The problem with the old pipe was it didn't overflow but it eroded at the bottom of the basin. There were 200 year storms, and the pipe did not overflow. There is a desire to get this repair done as if the bridge is destroyed, it would be a $2 million to repair. The temporary bridge would be as much as this fix is going to cost.

A motion by Mr. Dill to approve the project on Sheepskin Hollow Road to replace the culvert linings consistent with the recommendations by the engineering firm doing the work. Seconded by Mr. Jahne and unanimously approved.

c. Proposed forestry regulations

To be continued to a future meeting.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Burton-Reeve to adjourn the meeting at 8:08pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Walls and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary