East Haddam Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission
Land Use Office

Regular Meeting Minutes
September 16, 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 7:31 PM at the Municipal Office Complex.

2. Attendance

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

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

3. Approval of Minutes

6.a. Remove the apostrophe out of the Property Owner's to make it read Property Owners in both the agenda item and the motion.

A motion by Mr. Walls to approve July 15, 2025, minutes as amended. Seconded by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

4. Bills

No bills.

5. Field Inspection Report

A field walk held on September 10th. Three sites were visited: 374 Town Street, Wildwood Lake Association and 86 Clark Gates Road. Mr. Dill, Ms. Burton-Reeve and Mr. Ventres were in attendance.

6. Wetlands Permit Review

a. Application IWWC #25-12 – 374 Town Street (property location), Mark Thiede (applicant and property owner). Map 027, Lot 090. Proposed construction of a mural.

Mr. Thiede provided an overview of project. The goal is to engage the community in an art project and thus would like to install a large canvas. The funding is all there but he is waiting for approval to dig the holes for the structure. It will not be higher than six and a half (6.5) feet and is 40. It will be as wind resistant as it can be. The structure will be 44 forty-four (44) feet long using 4x4 pressure treated stanchions that will be concreted in. Then six (6) foot by four (4) foot will be attached to the stanchions to protect them from wind. The stabilizer will

be forty-five (45) degrees on the back of the structure and will be adding rebar to keep it stable. The reinforcement will be on every other section. Mr. Thiede's contractor provided details on the building of the structure. Call Before Dig was contacted and came out and marked the site for underground wires. There will be no vegetation clearing; it is existing lawn. It will be a permanent feature. A diagram was provided and reviewed with the Commission. The excess soil from drilling the post holes will be used to level out the low spots under the deck. It will not be put into the wetlands.

Motion by Mr. Walls to approve the Application IWWC #25-12 – 374 Town Street (property location), Mark Thiede (applicant and property owner). Map 027, Lot 090. Proposed construction of a mural, with pictures upon completion delivered to the Land Use Office, as shown in the application and diagrams dated 9/16/25. Seconded by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

b. Application IWWC #25-13 – 86 Clark Gates Road (property location), Marc Fortier (applicant and property owner). Map 074, Lot 051. Proposed construction of patio pavers.

Mr. Fortier provided an overview of his project. He built a house about a year ago and realized he had not included the patio on the plans. The plan is to excavate just a bit, with minimal amount of soil excavated. He outlined the plan which is to install pavers two (2) inches below the basement door to prevent water from splashing up. There is a retaining wall that will be less than three (3) feet tall made of interlocking wall blocks, and its being added to level out the slope around the house and slow the rain water runoff around the property. The Commission suggested adding filter fabric behind the retaining wall. Discussion ensued around the plan detail around drainage details.

Motion by Ms. Burton-Reeve to approve the Application IWWC #25-13 – 86 Clark Gates Road (property location), Marc Fortier (applicant and property owner). Map 074, Lot 051. Proposed construction of patio pavers and retaining wall with filter fabric behind it, with plans dated 9/16/2025, and with photos provided to the Land Use Office upon completion. Seconded by Mr. Jahne and unanimously approved.

c. Application IWWC #25-14 – 160 Smith Road (property location), Lawrence Rubin (application and property owner). Map 057, Lot 074. Proposed relocation of cottage, add sand into soil for farming purposes to grow crops for drainage, farming and harvesting crops.

Mr. Ventres provided the application. There is also a letter provided to Mr. Ventres from the East Haddam Land Trust, who intends to request a Public Hearing. Under State statutes, if 25 signatures are gathered, the IWWC is required to hold a Public Hearing. Mr. Ventres has also provided the application to the Town's Attorney. A field walk will be scheduled, but Mr. Ventres is not sure if there are going to be other properties to review, if there are other properties that will change the date for the field walk to a Sunday. This property is locally known as Bailey's Beach.

Motion by Mr. Dill to continue the Application IWWC #25-14 – 160 Smith Road (property location), Lawrence Rubin (application and property owner). Map 057, Lot 074. Proposed relocation of cottage, add sand into soil for farming purposes to grow crops for drainage, farming and harvesting crops. Seconded by Mr. Jahne 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 the next thing to do is to provide a grate, which has not been done yet. The property owner is going to enact the plan discussed at prior meetings.

8. IWWC Enforcement Officer's Report

   a. Beebe Road

   Mr. Ventres requested a draw down on the lake in April, to provide the ability to remove the materials input into the lack due to the blow-out from Beebe Road and to provide the lakeside homeowners the opportunity to input their applications to address any lakeside property issues. Mr. Ventres noted that DEEP is asking for a hydrologic study downstream which has not been requested in the past. Mr. Ventres noted the permit request is still under review.

   b. Proposed forestry regulations

   Nothing new to report.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Jahne to adjourn the meeting at 8:20pm. The motion was seconded by Ms. Burton-Reeve and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon A. Goyette
Recording Secretary