

2026 MAY 13 PM 4: 38

Leah Knappe
TOWN CLERK

Minutes

May 6, 2026

Call to Order: Inland-Wetlands Conservation Commission Acting Chairman Corey Finke called the May 6, 2026, Inland-Wetlands Conservation Commission Regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Assembly Room, Plymouth Town Hall.

Present were Inland-Wetlands Commissioner Nathan Brown, Inland-Wetlands Commissioner/Acting Chairman Corey Finke, Inland-Wetlands Commissioner Jacob Hoadley, and Inland-Wetlands Commissioner Anthony Roveto. Also in attendance were Town Council Liaison Ray Engle, Director of Planning and Economic Development Margus Laan, and Public Works Director Joe Sopczneski.

Pledge of Allegiance

Inland-Wetlands Commission Acting Chairman Corey Finke led the Inland-Wetlands Commissioners and the Public Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda Review

Nate Brown made a motion, seconded by Jacob Hoadley, to approve the April 1, 2026, Inland-Wetlands Commission Agenda as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes Previous Meeting(s): Regular Meeting of April 1, 2026

Nate Brown made a motion, seconded by Jacob Hoadley, to accept and approve the April 1, 2026, Regular meeting minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Requested time limit of no more than three minutes. This comment period is for topics not otherwise discussed during the evening's meeting. Comments on Agenda Items need to be made during the time of presentation & discussion before the Commission on the item for inclusion in the "Record" upon which the deliberation & decision is based.

No report.

New Applications for Acceptance and Determination

For Acceptance: Todd Road Bridge over Todd Hollow Brook; Project Scope – Bridge Reconstruction; Property Owner / Applicant: Town of Plymouth, Joseph Sopczneski, Director of Public Works; Engineer: Wengell McDonnell & Costello

Public Works Director Joe Sopczneski requested the Inland-Wetlands Commissioners review the application and approve the Inland-Wetlands permit, which he had distributed and to orient themselves with the paperwork.

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Todd Road Bridge over Todd Hollow Brook; Project Scope – Bridge Reconstruction Cont'd.

Joe Sopczneski stated the Todd Road Bridge is located generally at the intersection of Todd Road and Todd Hollow Road; noting there are three adjacent properties at the right of way. He further stated the three properties are 60 and 63 Todd Road and 134 Todd Hollow Road. Joe Sopczneski stated the photographs show the existing closed bridge, noting the existing structure is a beautiful old stone bridge, and it is his intent to keep it in place and build a new structure over the top of it. Joe Sopczneski stated there is also a temporary turnaround which seems to be a staging area when they closed the road. He further stated it will be cleaned up as part of the project. Joe Sopczneski stated the area had a previous Soil Scientist report, noting it had been surveyed, as well in 2016 as part of a survey. Joe Sopczneski stated the design plans show the general layout; the elevations of the bridge and the construction sequence included the design by Engineers WMC. He further stated the design plans also show the erosion and sediment control pages for the process and work within the waterway.

When questioned by Anthony Roveto regarding the impact on the adjoining properties at 63 Todd Road and 134 Todd Hollow Road, Joe Sopczneski stated there will be improvements to the area in what they have now and there will be some grading that will have to be done within the right of way. He further stated there is a slope on both sides of their properties. Joe Sopczneski stated that 63 Todd Road owns the pond upstream, so there will be grading along the edges, and the drawings show the extent of the grading, which is minimal.

Anthony Roveto stated that looking at the picture of the bridge the stonework looks shaky at best.

Joe Sopczneski stated there is a plan to use Gunitite to secure the stones in place, the bridge will no longer function as structural because the new bridge will be the structure, and the piece that remains will be secured with Gunitite and will be in-place.

When questioned by Nate Brown, Joe Sopczneski stated the structure over the top will support the bridge, not the arch.

When questioned by Anthony Roveto, Joe Sopczneski stated the weight limit will be posted and is included in the drawing.

When questioned by Corey Finke, Joe Sopczneski stated when the bridge is completed it will be two-way traffic.

When questioned by Corey Finke, Joe Sopczneski stated the turnaround at the bottom of the hill will be completely removed. He further stated he doesn't know why it was originally put there but thought it was part of turning it into a dead-end for the past two years.

Charles Weagle, 63 Todd Road, Plymouth, stated no trucks can get down Todd Road, noting there was also no place to turn around, and the USPS mail refused to deliver mail to the area. He further stated the bridge affects his property more than anybody else's, noting he owns about 1,500 feet down Todd Road. Charles Weagle stated Jim Schultz had put the turnaround in place.

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Todd Road Bridge over Todd Hollow Brook; Project Scope – Bridge Reconstruction Cont'd.

Joann Weagle stated emergency vehicles don't know how to get to Todd Road; noting they go down Todd Hollow Road and then make a turnaround. She said by the time they got to her house she would be dead on the floor.

Charles Weagle stated the dead end is kind of nice except for the emergency vehicles not being able to use the road.

Corey Finke stated for the record that he lives at 27 Todd Road, Plymouth. Corey Finke stated that he knows the condition of the road, noting that he does like it being a dead end because when the bridge was open there were problems with littering and cars speeding.

When questioned by Anthony Roveto as to what extent of the construction would be on the road on either side of the bridge, Joe Sopczneski stated the scope of this work is reasonably close to the bridge and for future plans the bridge would first be completed and then the road would be addressed.

Nate Brown stated his only concern had been the existing arch remaining and any complications with the construction application, noting now he doesn't have any issues.

Anthony Roveto made a motion, seconded by Nate Brown, to accept application for the Todd Road Bridge over Todd Hollow Brook; Project Scope-Bridge Reconstruction; Property Owner/Applicant: Town of Plymouth, Joseph Sopczneski, Director of Public Works; Engineer: Wengell McDonnell & Costello. This motion was approved unanimously.

Anthony Roveto stated in two weeks we'll do a full presentation and deliberate and accept the application, which will give the members time to see what it is all about.

For Determination: 370 South Main Street/ Assessor Parcel Number 069-107-16A-1; Project Scope: Renovation and Expansion of Rail Trackage, involves Demolition; Property Owner/Applicant: Inland Intermodal, LLC, Jeremy Legendre, Regional Manager; Engineer: Robert Green Associates, LLC

Jeremy Legendre stated his company has been working with Bob Green, Engineer, and some questions came up regarding their proximity to wetlands, there have been email communications between himself, Margus Laan and the Zoning Enforcement Officer David Elder. Jeremy Legendre displayed the area where the main concern was on the distributed plans. Jeremy Legendre stated the question is how close are they to the wetlands, noting that they and the railroad will be relocating a switch. Referring to Bob Green's email, Jeremy Legendre stated they are 78 feet of the right of way and they are looking for determination. He further stated they filed for a permit today, along with their letter of intent for the improvement.

When questioned by Anthony Roveto if the only thing in the wetlands area was the switch, Jeremy Legendre stated the switch is 78 feet off the wetlands and that is where the federal railroad right of way falls.

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Inland Intermodal, 370 South Main Street, Renovation and Expansion Rail Trackage Cont'd.

When questioned by Anthony Roveto as to what constitutes moving the switch, Jeremy Legendre stated that currently there is a piece of straight track that is in there and that piece of the track will be removed and the existing switch for their facility will be relocated to that area and displayed the area he was referring to on the plans.

When questioned by Nate Brown regarding what the federal regulations are, Jeremy Legendre stated that is determined by the railroad when they file their permit with them. He further stated that the plans were engineered by the railroad and then put in place by Bob Green. Jeremy Legendre stated the whole project had to go through federal review.

Nate Brown stated if the railroad engineered it then obviously, they are following the proper guidelines to ensure they are already a certain number of feet off of the wetlands.

Jeremy Legendre stated the whole concept of the facility was already approved by the Genesee Wyoming Railroad, noting it has to meet their criteria and be approved by their federal regulations before he could even bring it to this stage of construction.

Corey Finke stated he isn't sure they would even need to have permits because it is a federal railroad and it is already located within an existing structure that was previously approved.

Jeremy Legendre stated they would be working in the federal right of way, but they just wanted to have all their "i's dotted and their "t's" crossed before they went to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Anthony Roveto stated the feds override Inland-Wetlands a little bit.

Nate Brown stated he feels it is cut and dry.

Nate Brown made a motion, seconded by Jacob Hoadley, to accept the application for 370 South Main Street/Assessor Parcel Number 069-107-16A-1; Project Scope: Renovation and Expansion of Rail Trackage, involves Demolition; Property Owner/Applicant: Inland Intermodal, LLC, Jeremy Legendre, Regional Manager; Engineer: Robert Green Associates, LLC. This motion was approved unanimously.

Margus Laan stated he will request David Elder review the application and offer his input and thoughts. Margus Laan stated this motion approval will push the application to the Inland-Wetland's Commission's May 28, 2026, Regular meeting because the Inland-Wetlands Commissioners will need to wait for a decision from the Inland-Wetlands Commission. He further stated the May 20th Inland-Wetlands Commission meeting will not be a Public Hearing; it will be a regular presentation before the Commissioners, so it would not require a 15-day Notice.

Old/Continuing Applications-Deliberation and Decision (upon closure of Public Hearing)

None.

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Public Hearings Scheduled & No Previously Accepted Projects for Presentation & Decision

None.

Other items as may properly come before the Commission

Line Item - \$500 under Arbor Day

Margus Laan stated there is \$500.00 Arbor Day money is in the Inland-Wetland Commission's budget for the purposes of purchasing plants. He further stated the Town is working on a Downtown Transformation Plan and one option for the \$500.00 may be to utilize the money for this project. Margus Laan stated he could have Jason Williams of SLR come to the next Inland-Wetlands Commission meeting and explain the project scope. Margus Laan stated that he has a display board that explains the scope and it is a proposal to redo downtown, which involves landscaping, He further stated the \$500.00 could be used towards this project, noting that a decision needs to be made to spend the money or dedicate it for spending in July.

Nate Brown stated the Transformation Plan was still in the distant future, and if this item is going to be allocated for this year the Commission will get the same opportunity next year. He further stated the Commission may want to look at spending the \$500.00 for something else in Town this year.

Margus Laan this was the reason as to why he was going to ask Jason Williams to come to the Inland-Wetlands Commission's next meeting and explain what project they are considering for immediate action verses in the future.

Anthony Roveto made a motion, seconded by Nate Brown, to table the Line Item \$500 Arbor Day to the next scheduled meeting of the Inland-Wetlands Commission, and speak with other groups about it such as the Beautification Committee. This motion was approved unanimously.

2026 Aquarion Environmental Champion Awards; sponsored by Aquarion Water Company-Stewards of the Environment; submission deadline May 8, 2026; awards presented June 6, 2016, a ceremony to be held at Beardsley Zoo, Bridgeport, Connecticut

Margus Laan stated he has no suggestions for nominations, noting that he had sent the Commission Members a copy of what he had received by mail. He further stated he would like the Commissioners to review the information and if it comes back around next year the Commissioners will already have an idea of what the program is about.

Lookout for More Members

Margus Laan stated he was unsure if Dean Ferrante is reigning or has already resigned, noting he is waiting for the proper paperwork from him. He further stated that he did notify the Mayor's Office, noting the Mayor and the Town Council would accept the resignation once received.

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Lookout for More Members Cont'd.

When questioned by Corey Finke, Anthony Roveto stated once Dean Ferrante officially resigns there will be an opening for one Regular Member and two Alternate Members. Anthony Roveto stated he had spoken to Town Council Inland-Wetlands Liaison Ray Engle who will mention the openings at the next scheduled Town Council meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Inland-Wetlands Conservation Commission, Inland-Wetlands Commissioner Jacob Hoadley made a motion, seconded by Inland-Wetlands Commissioner Anthony Roveto, to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Hale

Patricia A. Hale
Recording Secretary