

CHAPLIN
INLAND WETLANDS, WATERCOURSES AND CONSERVATION
COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes
Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meeting

September 24, 2025 @ 7:00 P.M.

Chaplin Town Hall

Present: S. Matthies, V. Walton, S. Rusch, D. Field, P. Kegler, M. Jenkins, D. Cates

Staff: J. Theroux, Wetland Agent; Susan Welshman, Recording Secretary

Others: David Stepule; Roger, Daniel and James Larivee; Bill & Sally Ireland

S. Matthies called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Alternates seated: None

Review and approval of the minutes from Wednesday, August 27, 2025, regularly scheduled meeting:

Motion by P Kegler to approve regular meeting minutes for the 8/27/2025 meeting:

Second by D Field. All in favor, MOTION carried.

Audience of Citizens: None

Additions to the Agenda: None

Old Business:

- Mr. David Stepule: 00 Natchaug Street, construction of driveway crossing and wood walkway. Various members of the Commission reported performing individual site walks at the property. **S Rusch made a MOTION to approve the permit for the construction of a driveway crossing and wood walkway. P Kegler seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.**

New Business: None

Show Cause Hearing:

- Notice of Violation: Mr. Roger Larivee, 325 Phoenixville Road, deposition of materials in and adjacent to wetlands. Mr. Larivee attended the Show Cause Hearing accompanied by his sons James and Daniel Larivee. J Theroux explained that he had received a complaint from the adjacent neighbor that wood chips were being deposited on their property. J Theroux explained that the determination of property lines is not a Wetland Commission responsibility, but the observation that wood chips were deposited in or adjacent to wetlands are within the Commission's jurisdiction. D & J Larivee explained that Mr. Larivee has now obtained a Wetlands Permit application and is developing a site drawing. J Theroux advised obtaining a soil scientist to delineate the wetlands on the property for submission with their application. J Theroux to meet with the applicant to provide guidance. Show Cause Hearing closed for Larivee at 7:15 PM

- Notice of Violation: Mr. Bill Ireland, Quiet Corner Hops Farm, LLC, 261 Bedlam Road, Chaplin, CT. Cease, Desist and Correct Order dated 8/8/2025. A Commission site walk was performed at 261 Bedlam Road on September 23, 2025. Chair S Matthies asked the Commission to share their observations and opinions. P Kegler stated that he observed clear violations of Section 4.1 of the Chaplin Wetlands Regulations. S Matthies and J Theroux stated that they observed activity occurring in a wooded area, road creation, regrading, filling and reclamation of two watercourses with continual flow as well as the removal of rocks from the property to an off-site location which is considered ‘mining’ in the regulations. S Matthies stated that the above observed activities are identified as regulated activities within Section 4.1 of the Chaplin Wetlands regulations and are required to come before the Commission for a jurisdictional ruling. Mr. Ireland stated that he is not guilty of the stated violations and that the Commission must determine that the property and his operations are ‘a farm’ thus are exempt from all regulations. He stated that he is not performing the reclamation of wetlands when he is draining an area, filling or diverting a watercourse with a continual flow. He stated that the construction of roads is listed as allowed. Mrs. Ireland repeated that farms are allowed to do that. Mr. Ireland stated that he will not be submitting an application for a jurisdictional ruling, he will not apply for a permit and that he will not abide by the conditions set forth in the Cease, Desist and Correct Order dated 8/8/2025. Chair S Matthies stated that the Commission could now proceed with the determination of a jurisdictional ruling in this case. **P Kegler made a MOTION for the Chaplin Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Commission to put forth the jurisdictional ruling that the activities already performed at 261 Bedlam Road are Regulated Activities and are not Permitted Uses as of Right. D Field seconded the MOTION. All in favor, MOTION carried.** J Theroux stated that if Mr. Ireland does not adhere to the Cease, Desist and Correct Order or does not apply for a permit of the regulated activities, the case will be remanded to the Town Attorney for enforcement. Mr. Ireland responded by stating that he will now proceed with the installation of a drain on the property, will continue the removal of rocks and the expansion into the wetlands. Show Cause Hearing closed at 7:45 PM.

Correspondence: None

Administrative Report:

- J Theroux reported that he is expecting a permit application from Rocking Horse Farm, Rte. 6, Chaplin for next month’s meeting. The application is regarding a wetland crossing for construction of a 55+ housing development.

Conservation Commission Business: None

Commission Discussion:

S Matthies reviewed that 3 Commission member’s terms were ending on 11/4/2025. The three members are P Kegler, D Cates and M Jenkins. All three stated that they wish to be re-appointed to another 6 year term. S Matthies requested Annual Report FY 24-25 information from J Theroux.

Adjournment: Motion by D Field to adjourn, Second by S Rusch. All in favor.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm

*Respectfully submitted,
Susan Welshman
Recording Secretary*