

**CITY OF NORWALK
CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND
WETLAND AGENCY MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2026**

PRESENT: Steve Klocke, Chair; Paul Vinett; Elise Allum; Devan Healy; Heather Breslin;
Kathryn Knight (after roll call)

STAFF: Alexis Cherichetti

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Klocke called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. It should be noted that this meeting was held on Zoom.com with all participants calling in, separately.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Cherichetti called the roll.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Marissa Santangelo was trying to make comments but her comments could not be heard. Ms. Cherichetti advised her to call in. It was decided to allow her to come back to speak if she could get her audio connection working.

Athena Coroneos began by saying she was speaking on a declaratory ruling of the Inland Wetland Agency which allowed the Agency to be exempt from the regulations. She noted that work had been done with backhoes around Woods Pond. She said trees and cigarette butts were being put in the water. Since she said she was speaking about one of the applications on the agenda, she was not allowed to continue. She was advised that she could speak on general conservation matters and not specific items on the agenda. Ms. Cherichetti said that Ms. Coroneos could reach out to her with any issues by phoning or through email.

Amy Kule, East Rocks Road, discussed a project on Woods Road for a walking path through the woods, which Ms. Cherichetti noted was a past application that had been reviewed previously by the Agency. She was advised to send her concerns to the Conservation staff. She had concerns about trees being thrown into a brook. The workers are smoking and throwing the cigarette butts into the woods. She was told that she could begin the process by calling or emailing Ms. Cherichetti. She would then inspect the site for violations and begin enforcement action if appropriate. Ms. Kule said she would go with Ms. Cherichetti to inspect the property.

Diane Cece, Olmstead Place, said she agreed with the speaker before her. She thanked Ms. Cherichetti for her time earlier in the day to speak with her. She had some confusion as to the agenda and whether or not she could speak on agenda items. She was surprised to see the declaratory ruling on the agenda. She felt that Recreation and Parks was taking advantage of a loophole in the regulations which would otherwise allow the public to speak on. She said that there was a long list of unregulated activities that would qualify. She had concerns about the type of questions the commission would ask. She also had concerns about the use of grant money. Mr. Klocke said that the commission should treat the city the same as any property owner.

There were no other members of the public that spoke.

IV. RECEIPT & DISCUSSION

There were no new applications to be received.

V. DISCUSSION &/OR DECISION

A. #S25-660 – 4 Singingwoods Road – William Kenny Associates LLC – Construction of a new single-family residence, with associated grading, stormwater management and landscaping, adjacent to wetlands and a watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti said that the applicant had submitted revised materials in response to the discussion during their last meeting.

Bill Kenny began the presentation by explaining the changes to the plan which included an increased buffer.

Bryan French, the engineer on the project, continued the presentation by showing the commissioners the revised site plan. He summarized the changes to the drainage system as well as the grading.

Mr. Kenny continued the presentation by stating that the buffer had been widened. The plantings would be closer to the house as well as there being a boulder demarcation. He discussed the trees that were being planted as well as trees along a wall. Other trees that were added were in the house site.

There was a discussion about why trees would be removed, including some of the maple trees that were still marked for removal. There was a discussion about trees near the drainage system as well as the grading. There was also a discussion about tree health. Ms. Cherichetti said that different tree species react differently to filling. Mr. Klocke suggested adding trees back after the work was done.

Mr. Kenny then discussed the planting plan. There was a discussion about adding to the northwest corner. There was concern about the trees being removed in the upland review area so it would be helpful to plant some in that area. There was a discussion about modifications to the conditions of the resolution. There was also a discussion about moving trees that were in the plan.

***** MS. BRESLIN MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE #S25-660 WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION IN THE MEMORANDUM WITH SPECIAL CONDITION #5 BEING MODIFIED TO INCLUDE 2 NATIVE SHADE TREES BE PLANTED IN THE UPLAND REVIEW AREA.**

***** MR. KLOCKE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** STEVE KLOCKE; PAUL VINETT; ELISE ALLUM; DEVAN HEALY; HEATHER BRESLIN; KATHRYN KNIGHT APPROVED.**

***** NO ONE OPPOSED THE MOTION.**

***** NO ONE ABSTAINED.**

B. #S26-661 – 5 Witch Lane – Suchy – Two (2) lot subdivision adjacent to a wetland and a watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti began the presentation by noting that it had been received at the previous meeting.

Atty Liz Suchy continued the presentation by stating that they were working on the changes. She hoped that they would be able to provide those plans at the next meeting. She also said that there would be a meeting with staff from Planning & Zoning, Conservation and the Department of Public Works to discuss this property.

VI. DECLARATORY RULINGS

A. #DR26-356 – 21 Lakewood Drive & 75 Creeping Hemlock Drive – City of Norwalk – Install trail system adjacent to wetlands and a watercourse

Ms. Cherichetti said that this was another declaratory ruling request for the installation of outdoor recreational trails which is located in proximity to a wetland and watercourse.

Ken Hughes, Superintendent of Recreation and Parks, introduced Chris Tramutola to do a brief overview of the request. Ms. Cherichetti showed the commissioners the location of the property on an aerial map, as well as where the trails were proposed. Mr. Tramutola said that the site is in a neighborhood with one access point in the north and one in the south. He shared the site plan by describing it as flat but buffered by steep sloped areas. It would be a small walking area. He showed them the connections. It described the paths around the loop and said that they would be ADA accessible. There would be another loop. He also described a switchback trail and where it was placed. There was a discussion about surface water management and

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erosion control in a switchback situation. There was a discussion about what would happen with a rainstorm. The material to be used was stabilized gravel which is granite shavings with an organic polymer.

There was a discussion about the trail within the 100 foot upland review area which Ms. Cherichetti described. There was a discussion about whether this was a regulated activity. There was also a discussion about the amount of fill that would be used unless it was used to make an area more accessible. Mr. Tramutola discussed how they tried to keep trails linear so that more people would stay on them, rather than stepping off of them and impacting the landscape. There was then a discussion of the removal plan, as well as an area that would not be moved and would have grass that is native to the area. There was a discussion about the fact that this application should follow the regulations. Mr. Tramutola also discussed the stairs going to the watercourse and how people could interact with it.

At this point, Ms. Cherichetti shared an aerial map of the property. There would be the removal of some trees that could fall on those walking on the trails. These would be within the upland review area. There was also a discussion about the maintenance of the trails once they are built. Mr. Hughes said that in other parts of the city, as they opened up the trails, they were able to get into them and maintain them as well. There was a discussion about the benefits of fallen trees to help regenerate. Mr. Tramutola said that they would be able to line the trails with some of the fallen trees.

At this point, the commissioners reviewed the regulations to see if this would be considered a regulated activity.

***** MR. KLOCKE MADE A MOTION THAT THIS WAS A REGULATED ACTIVITY AND THAT THEY COULD NOT ALLOW A DECLATORY ACTION FOR THE WORK.**

***** MS. KNIGHT SECONDED THE MOTION.**

***** STEVE KLOCKE; PAUL VINETT; ELISE ALLUM; DEVAN HEALY; HEATHER BRESLIN; KATHRYN KNIGHT APPROVED.**

***** NO ONE OPPOSED THE MOTION.**

***** NO ONE ABSTAINED.**

There is no activity on the property by the city at the moment. There are some people riding dirt bikes, though. Mr. Hughes also said that he had contacted the contractor about the earlier project that a resident had complained about, to let them know it was unacceptable.

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. January 27, 2026 meeting minutes

- *** MS. ALLUM MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2026 MEETING.**
- *** MS. BRESLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- *** STEVE KLOCKE; ELISE ALLUM; DEVAN HEALY; HEATHER BRESLIN; KATHRYN KNIGHT APPROVED.**
- *** NO ONE OPPOSED THE MOTION.**
- *** PAUL VINETT ABSTAINED.**

VIII. CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Ms. Allum discussed a meeting with Trout Limited to discuss dam removal. She would send anyone the link that wanted to attend.

Ms. Cherichetti said that there would be another Earth Day on April 25, 2026, as well as the theme, "Our Power, Our Planet." She would submit an application for the Conservation Commission to have a table. Mr. Vinett and Ms. Breslin said that they would be there.

IX. REPORTS

A. Commission Chair

There were no reports from Mr. Klocke.

B. Senior Environmental Officer

There were no reports from Ms. Cherichetti.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- *** MR. KLOCKE MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**
- *** MS. ALLUM SECONDED THE MOTION.**
- *** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Palmentiero