

**CITY OF NORWALK  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION/INLAND  
WETLAND AGENCY MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

**PRESENT:** Steve Klocke, Chair; Paul Vinett; Elise Allum; Kathryn Knight; Heather Breslin  
(arrived after the 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**

There were no members of the public that spoke.

**IV. RECEIPT & DISCUSSION**

**A. #S26-662 – 26 Cannon Street – City of Norwalk DPW – Replacement of storm drainage system in and adjacent to wetlands and a watercourse**

Jennifer Martinez Torres, engineer with Woodard & Curran, began the presentation with an introduction of the project team. She also provided an overview of the project purpose and described the work that was being proposed. She showed the location of the project on an aerial map. She said that the existing concrete pipe would be replaced with a larger one.

Paul Sotnik, engineer with the Department of Public Works (DPW), noted where it was located and explained that there has been flooding issues for a long time. Some property owners get water in their homes.

Reid Heaton, engineer with Woodard & Curran, continued the presentation with a description of the existing outflow to Betts Park Brook. He then discussed the proposed plans which included the proposed outfall. The area would be protected with riprap at the mouth of the culvert.

Paul Sotnik explained why they had separated this project from a bridge project that had been completed a few years before. Mr. Sotnik also confirmed that DPW calculated to ensure that there is no flooding to those who are upstream or downstream.

Ms. Torres said that they had completed a citywide storm water analysis based on the existing drainage infrastructure. This analysis would be used to determine where the flooding problem areas were and how they could be improved. This area was identified to be a high priority area. She explained how the analysis was done.

Mr. Sotnik noted that they could not eliminate flooding, but could mitigate it. The analysis is done for various types of storms.

There was a discussion about the wetland delineation summary. There was also a discussion about the removal of trees for this project. Mr. Heaton explained that the trees to be removed were not currently on the plans but Mr. Klocke requested them to be added. Mr. Klocke also stated the trees should be replaced. Mr. Sotnik explained the tree removal process that is necessary including the requirement to obtain a permit.

There was a discussion about requiring stormwater capture and treatment. Mr. Sotnik explained the difficulty of an online system. Jim Meehan, principal engineer for DPW, noted that there are catch basins that collect debris.

There was a discussion about the catch basins and updating the existing system. Mr. Meehan said that if there are areas of concern they would increase the size of the sump pumps. There was also a discussion about where the runoff was coming from and the quality of the water going into the brook from the runoff. There was a request for a remediation plan in the application.

Ms. Breslin said she lived across the street and would like to see the site restored to mitigate flooding. Mr. Heaton described the limits of work on the banks of the brook. There was a discussion about slowing down the water before it entered the brook. Mr. Sotnik said that they could provide a planting plan. There was a discussion about the construction phase and replacement of vegetation that is lost. There is an existing stormwater drainage system which would have a larger pipe to carry the water.

Ms. Knight noted the importance of the Agency being consistent with the standards required of all applicants and asked that the project include water quality improvements.

Ms. Cherichetti encouraged Mr. Meehan to describe the activities DPW does in support of the MS4 permit program. Mr. Meehan described the MS4 program which is quality control for stormwater output that is required at state and federal levels. He said that Norwalk is a leading municipality in the state of Connecticut to implement this process and monitor pollutants. If this project is completed, Mr. Meehan said that there would be inspections for the MS4 program.

There was further discussion about the expense of adding a stormwater infiltration system. Ms. Knight said that there would be long-term costs and impacts to the city by not managing pollutants in the water. Mr. Vinett also noted that they were trying to protect the ecosystems downstream, all the way to the Long Island Sound.

Ms. Cherichetti explained how this project was different from when the commission reviewed commercial or residential applications. Mr. Sotnik noted that there would not be a lot of land to put a treatment system within the easement.

There was a discussion about an updated plan from the applicant at the next meeting. Mr. Klocke hoped they would receive a draft resolution and memo to be voted on.

## **V. DISCUSSION &/OR DECISION**

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

Attorney Suchy began the presentation with an update. She said that they had met with the Zoning, Ms. Cherichetti and DPW. They were revising the plans as well as handling other issues with the Zoning Regulations. The applicant would grant an extension if one was needed.

Ms. Cherichetti said that without an extension they needed to set a public hearing date for March 24. They could decide at the March 10 meeting if an extension was warranted.

## **VI. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

### **A. February 10, 2026 meeting minutes**

**\*\*\* MR. VINETT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2026 MEETING.**

**\*\*\* MS. ALLUM SECONDED THE MOTION.**

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

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

**\*\*\* NO ONE ABSTAINED**

## **VII. CONSERVATION INITIATIVES**

Ms. Cherichetti discussed a grant received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to do a flood resilience citywide plan. A consultant has been hired and they are looking at existing risks as well as doing background work. The city would host a listening session on March 11 for which they are putting together advertising materials. Residents can speak about areas of

the city where they believe flooding has impacted them. There would also be an online poll for anyone that could not attend the March 11 meeting. The commission would receive information so that they could share it with their contacts.

Ms. Breslin had a question about snow removal and whether there were guidelines for disposal. Ms. Cherichetti said that there are guidelines but the state had waived them for the blizzard.

## **VIII. REPORTS**

### **A. Commission Chair**

There were no reports from Mr. Klocke.

### **B. Senior Environmental Officer**

There were no reports from Ms. Cherichetti.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\*\* MR. KLOCKE MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN.  
\*\*\* MR. VINETT SECONDED THE MOTION.  
\*\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Palmentiero