INLAND WETLANDS/CONSERVATION COMMISSION

EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 2, 2025
Regular/Hybrid Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
7:00 pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER ~** 7:01 pm meeting called to order. Members present when Chairperson Jennifer Frank called the meeting to order were: Lisa Griffin, John Rusnock, Ken Fersch, Ron Hunt, Alternates John Erbland & Paula Saaf and Michael D'Amato from Tyche. Members absent: James Marquis. Colby Laviana arrived at 7:05pm

2. **MINUTES ~** Ron Hunt made a motion to accept the minutes from 02.05.2025, Lisa Griffin seconded the motion, votes in favor: all but Ken Fersch abstained (not at last meeting), motion passed.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS ~ N/A**

4. **OLD BUSINESS** ~ 37 Hatchet Hill Road violation ~ reminder that they will need a permit for the driveway, and it will be an administrative review, nothing applied for yet.

5. **REPORTS & OTHER BUSINESS ~ N/A**

6. **NEW BUSINESS ~**
   Alternates: John Erbland, Paula Saaf.
   Chairperson Frank seated alternate John Erbland in place of absent member James Marquis for tonight's meeting.

   A. Application CC#25-01: 38 Kripes Road Property Owner, LLC, 38 Kripes Road, trailer parking expansion in the upland review area. The applicant requested it be continued to the May meeting providing them with time to make revisions as requested in the town engineer's review. Chairperson Frank made a motion to continue this application to the May 7th meeting, John Rusnock seconded the motion. Votes in favor were unanimous, motion carried.

   B. Request from Galasso Materials for removal of ongoing wildlife and herpetological studies commitment, that were part of the 2014 expansion conditions. Leigh Turner, Jr. and Craig Timpson both spoke on behalf of Galasso Materials and discussed how they have continued these studies for 11 years along the fringes of the wetlands that are part of their property. There has been no change in these years other than the ebbs & flows experienced throughout nature due to variations in temperature and wet v. dry seasons. Part of this area has since become a Monarch butterfly weigh station, and they also shared that a beaver has built a dam in the area. The robust hydrogeologic testing program will continue, they are just requesting the removal of ongoing wildlife & herpetological studies.
   Chairperson Frank made a motion to release Galasso Materials from further wildlife testing as requested, Ron Hunt seconded the motion. Votes in favor were unanimous, motion carried.

C. <u>Discussion of Wetlands Citation Ordinance</u>

Commission members discussed the need to have an ordinance in place to give the commission more authority when dealing with violations in the wetlands. An ordinance would enable the IWCC to implement fines for serious offenses. The dollar amount of fines will be discussed and determined once the commission has a chance to review the fee structures from several other municipalities and draft one for East Granby. Consideration should be given to making the fee structure separately as an appendix.

Lisa Griffin discussed the need to have hearing officers appointed and ready once the ordinance is in place. Hearing officers may not be staff, town employees or current commission members, but should be a town resident knowledgeable in both the wetlands regulations and the law, with experience interacting with the public.

Overall, members felt it is a good tool to have as leverage in hopes the commission would not have to utilize it often.

Chairperson Frank made a motion to forward the Wetlands Citation Ordinance draft to the Board of Selectman with request that the final draft comes back to IWCC for final approval prior to a Town Meeting, John Erbland seconded the motion. Votes in favor were unanimous, motion carried.

7. **ADJOURNMENT** ~ 7:46 pm ~ John Rusnock made a motion to adjourn, Ken Fersch seconded the motion. Votes in favor were unanimous, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted on this 3rd day of April 2025,

Michele Leadbeater
East Granby Building & Land Use Administrative Assistant