



# Town of Woodbury

## Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency

281 Main Street South  
Woodbury, CT 06798

203.263.3467 ▪ [www.woodburyct.org](http://www.woodburyct.org)

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**MINUTES – FEBRUARY 14, 2023**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**7:00 PM – Senior/Community Center, 265 Main St. South, Woodbury, CT 06798**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Tyrrell, Chairman  
Marty Newell, Vice Chairman  
Kyle Turoczi, Secretary  
Earl Gillette, Alternate  
Michael McAloon, Alternate  
Don Richards

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ernest Werner

**NOTED OTHERS PRESENT** – Attorney Janet Brooks, Kathy Doyle, Carol Haskins and another interested member of the public.

**OPENING OF MEETING**

- Call to Order – Meeting commenced at 7:03 p.m.
- Seating of Members / Alternates – Seated for the meeting were members Tyrrell, Newell, Turoczi, Richards and alternate McAloon
- Conflict of Interest Reminder (CGS §8-11 & Woodbury Town Charter Section 901)

**PUBLIC HEARINGS** – None

**NEW APPLICATIONS** - None

**WORKSHOP TRAINING SESSION with Environmental Attorney Janet Brooks**

Attorney Janet Brooks introduced herself with a brief overview of her experience and background. An anonymous questionnaire was distributed to the Agency members as a way for Attorney Brooks to get to know the Agency member's knowledge and understanding of their role and responsibilities when it comes to Inland Wetlands.

Review of the farming exemption within the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act was the primary focus of the discussion. Wetlands Agencies have authority over regulated activities and can assess conditions of approvals. Although Agencies do not have authority over exempt activities, they are the ones who must make the determination whether an activity is exempt. Submission of information can be required to assist with that determination. It is up to the entity requesting the exemption to establish that the proposed project falls within the farming exemption in the wetlands act. It was discussed that a Wetlands Agency may issue a cease-and-desist order if and until such time as it is established that the activity is exempt, or a permit is obtained. The Agency would need to show evidence or proof to establish a violation. Attorney Brooks suggested the Agency always refer to the Section 22a-40 when faced with deciding on an exemption and to the farming and agriculture definition as defined in Section 1-1q. Once an activity is determined to be exempt, the Agency has no authority to place conditions and if the activity is found to be exempt by the Agency, it can be done in wetlands.

***Copies of documents and meeting audio are available at the Land Use Office***

Members noted the issue of getting farms to come in to discuss their activities. Farms should be notifying the Agency of their activities so that exemptions can be determined. Attorney Brooks offered that it could be presented as a benefit by doing the exemption so that there is documentation recording it.

The Town’s Wetlands Regulations are not current with the model regulations, there have been additions to the State’s model regulations. The regulations should be updated.

There was a brief discussion of farms incorporating more commercial activities such as wine tastings, corn mazes, etc. These activities may be more of a zoning issue than a wetlands issue. Drone usage was questioned, Attorney Brooks advising that there is a reasonable expectation of privacy and use of photos captured from drones could be considered trespass.

**ADMINISTRATIVE - Meeting Minutes – 1/9/2023**

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes as written.

Made by **NEWELL**, Seconded by **TUROCZI**

Vote: 5-0-0 – **Approved** – Motion Passed

Ayes Tyrrell, Newell, Turoczi, Richards, McAloon  
Nays None  
Abstain None

**CORRESPONDENCE** - None

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR** – Kathy Doyle felt the workshop was informative and thought it would be good to have more of these types of sessions. She suggested that this type of training should be built into the budgets.

Carol Haskins thanked the Agency for the session also finding it informative.

Members discussed that these workshops are beneficial, and it is convenient that they can be built into their meeting times. More involved topics like agritourism would be a good suggestion for the Joint Land Use meetings. Member Richards wanted the minutes to reflect a two-hour class was held and the members in attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Made by **NEWELL** with no objections.

**Filed Subject to Approval**

Respectfully Submitted

*Anne Firlings*

Anne Firlings, Clerk

RECEIVED & FILED  
IN WOODBURY, CT  
This 16<sup>th</sup> day of Feb 2023  
at 12:35 o'clock PM  
*Maria M. Mancini*  
Treasurer