



Town of  
NORTH STONINGTON, CT  
Inland Wetlands Commission

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.

New Town Hall  
Conference Room  
40 Main Street  
North Stonington, CT 06359

**Minutes Approved ~ August 8, 2018**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Mark Grigg called the Regular Meeting of the Inland Wetlands Commission to order on Wednesday, June 13, 2018 at 7:02 p.m.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Mark Grigg, Chairman, Kevin Geary, Ron Lewis & Marvin Chase, Jr.

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Candy Palmer, Vice-Chair, Cody Bill, and Asa Palmer

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Wayne Berardi, Wetlands Enforcement Officer and Administrative Assistant Cheryl Konsavitch

**2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None

**3. MINUTES:**

Review Minutes of Regular Meeting of 02/14/18 & 03/14/18

The Commission accepted the minutes of 02/14/18 and 03/14/18 as submitted.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**5. WORKSHOP:**

Madeline Jeffery and Richard Seager gave an update on the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild & Scenic Rivers Study

Madeline Jeffery stated that the Study is ending and three years ago, a bill was passed by Congress that assigned the National Parks Service to conduct a study of seven rivers in the

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed to see if they qualified as National Wild and Scenic Rivers under the Partnership Wild and Scenic River Program. The Partnership Wild and Scenic River Program involves rivers that run primarily through private and state lands, therefore the Community is heavily involved in the protection and stewardship of these rivers.

Mrs. Jeffery stated that she and Dick Seager have been an important part of this process and that the Committee has documented several remarkable values of the rivers, including unique geology/hydrology, outstanding ecosystems, exemplary cultural resources, exceptional recreational opportunities and beautiful scenery. In order to protect these values a Stewardship Plan was developed. The Plan has been finalized by the Study Committee and can be downloaded from the Wild and Scenic website at <http://wpwildrivers.org>.

At this time, Mrs. Jeffery and Mr. Seager are asking that the Inland Wetlands Commission provide a letter expressing support of the National Wild and Scenic River designation of the seven rivers in the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed and endorsing the Stewardship Plan. This letter will be provided to the North Stonington Board of Selectmen to show the Inland Wetland Commission's support in this matter.

With this support, they are also asking the Town to appoint a representative to the Stewardship Council when it is formed. The Wild and Scenic Rivers will provide key benefits to the Town and will not cost the Town any money. It will also not impose any new federal regulations nor does it require any dams be removed. It will provide national recognition of the special rivers that this Town already values, and make available possible funds to protect those rivers through partnership with the National Parks Service. Most importantly, the Town of North Stonington will continue to have a part in the stewardship of the rivers.

Mrs. Jeffery stated that once support is had from all the Towns, Congressional Delegates in both RI and CT will submit another Bill to Congress that will amend the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to include the seven rivers of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed. This will be the final step in the designation process and is expected to take place in October 2018, which is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Mrs. Jeffery and Mr. Seager thanked the Commission for their consideration of this request.

The Commission discussed and asked questions and R. Lewis stated he was opposed, because the rivers are already controlled by the Army Corp. and the DEEP and this will bring more regulations. Both Mrs. Jeffery and Mr. Seager agreed that it would not.

Chairman Grigg stated the Commission is voting to support the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Committee and their recommendation to seek National Wild and Scenic Designation for seven rivers in the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed, two of which are in North Stonington, the Shunock and the Green Falls River.

The Commission is also supporting the development of the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Plan to protect the values of the rivers.

Abstain: R. Lewis

In Favor: M. Grigg, M. Chase, K. Geary

**6. OLD BUSINESS:** None

**7. NEW BUSINESS:** None

8. **DISCUSSION:** None

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by M. Chase, SECOND by K. Geary to adjourn the Inland Wetlands Commission Meeting at 7:55 p.m. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectively Submitted,

Cheryl Konsavitch,  
Administrative Assistant, Inland Wetlands Commission