

TOWN OF WATERFORD
GENERAL FUND

2025-2026 PROPOSED BUDGET

DEPT/AGENCY: 10114 CONSERVATION COMMISSION

LINE ITEM	DESCRIPTION	2023-2024 ACTUAL EXPENDED	2024-2025 RTM APPROP.	2024-2025 ADDITIONAL/ TRANSFERS	ACTUAL EXPEND & ENCUMBS AS OF 1/1/25	2025-2026 DEPT/ AGENCY REQUEST	2025-2026 APPROVED BD/COMM	2025-2026 BD OF SELECTMEN APPROVED	2025-2026 BOARD OF FINANCE APPROVED	BOF Approved \$ Increase	BOF Approved % Increase
SERVICES											
52010	ADVERTISING	1,069	1,500		1,324	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0.00%
52020	POSTAGE	112	125		50	125	125	125	125	0	0.00%
52030	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	0	3,500		0	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0.00%
52031	PLANNING SERVICES	7,804	12,000		0	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	0	0.00%
52050	DUES, CONF. & EDUC.	295	600		330	600	600	600	600	0	0.00%
52060	PRINTING	0	25		0	25	25	25	25	0	0.00%
	SUBTOTAL	9,280	17,750	0	1,704	17,750	17,750	17,750	17,750	0	0.00%
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES											
53020	OTHER SUPPLIES	191	500		0	500	500	500	500	0	0.00%
	SUBTOTAL	191	500	0	0	500	500	500	500	0	0.00%
DEPARTMENT TOTAL		9,471	18,250	0	1,704	18,250	18,250	18,250	18,250	0	0.00%

**TOWN OF WATERFORD
FY2026 BUDGET REQUEST
DEPARTMENT: CONSERVATION COMMISSION**



BUDGET FUNCTION

The Waterford Conservation Commission serves as the Inland Wetlands Agency; reviewing applications, issuing permits and enforcing activities affecting inland wetlands and watercourses in accordance with the Waterford Inland Wetlands and Watercourses regulations and CT General Statute's 22a-36 through 22a-45. The Conservation Commission also carries out the statutory responsibilities of a municipal Conservation Commission, maintaining a survey of natural resources, reviewing land use proposals and making recommendations to other Boards and Agencies on natural resource identification and protection, and Open Space preservation.

The Conservation Commission conducted 18 regularly scheduled meetings and 1 special meeting in FY 2023/24 and rendered decisions on 13 applications to conduct activities in and adjacent to inland wetlands and watercourses. Inland Wetland permits authorized the permanent loss of 0.018 acres of wetland, and the temporary disturbance of 0.002 acres of wetlands which are required to be restored following completion of construction. Mitigation for the permanent wetland disturbance was required and consists of creation of 0.039 acres of wetland on the project site.

MEMBERS

Richard Muckle, Chair
Tali Maidelis, Secretary
David Lersch
Geneva Renegar
Wade Thomas
Matthew Keatley
Keith Kriet

ALTERNATES

Ivy Plis
Matthew Shea
1 vacancy

**TOWN OF WATERFORD
FY2026 BUDGET REQUEST
DEPARTMENT: CONSERVATION COMMISSION**



FEES

FEES – Application Fees Generated from Inland Wetland Permit Applications

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total Fees Collected</u>
FY 2020/2021	\$ 800
FY 2021/2022	\$ 700
FY 2022/2023	\$ 1,600
FY 2023/2024	\$ 1,050
FY 2024/2025 – 4 months	\$ 50

The Waterford Conservation Commission requires an additional fee when public hearings are required. The fee off-sets the cost for publishing the two legal notices of public hearing required by State statute.

**TOWN OF WATERFORD
FY2026 BUDGET REQUEST
DEPARTMENT: CONSERVATION COMMISSION**



BUDGET SUMMARY

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Proposed Fiscal Year 2026	
SERVICES:	
10114-52010-101-010-14-00-52 ADVERTISING	1,500
10114-52020-101-010-14-00-52 POSTAGE	125
10114-52030-101-010-14-00-52 PROFESSIONAL FEES	3,500
10114-52031-101-010-14-00-52 PLANNING SERVICES	12,000
10114-52050-101-010-14-00-52 DUES, CONFERENCES & EDUCATION	600
10114-52060-101-010-14-00-52 PRINTING	25

TOTAL	17,750
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES:	
10114-53020-101-010-14-00-53 OTHER SUPPLIES	500

TOTAL	500

TOTAL	18,250

Advertising Line 10114-52010

\$ 1,800 Requested

The advertising account covers the cost of all legal notice requirements required by State statute. This includes publication of notices of public hearings, enforcement orders and notices of decision on all Commission inland wetland agency actions. Advertisements for public hearings and decisions of the Commission are required to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in Waterford. To off-set publication costs, the Commission requires an additional fee of \$400.00 when a public hearing is required for the legal notices. The costs for legal notices of decision placed in The Day newspaper for FY 2023/2024 were \$1,069.36. The requested budget amount is consistent with that approved for the FY 2024/25 budget.

TOWN OF WATERFORD
FY2026 BUDGET REQUEST
DEPARTMENT: CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Postage Line 10114-52020

\$ 125 Requested

Postage expenditures include certified letter mailings required for notice of Commission decisions on applications and for enforcement proceedings, correspondence to Town residents, and referrals to municipal, State and Federal agencies. The requested budget amount is consistent with that approved for the FY 2024/25 budget.

Professional Services Line 10114-52030

\$ 3,500 Requested

The professional services account is used to obtain professional technical reviews, retain expert witnesses, chemical laboratory analyses and other professional technical assistance unavailable at the municipal or State level that are required to conduct the duties of the inland wetlands agency and the Conservation Commission. These services may include assisting the Commission with technical expert reviews of application documents, investigating complaints of wetland, soil or water quality impacts, documenting violations of the inland wetlands and watercourses regulations, providing expert testimony in court proceedings, or assisting the Commission in preparing natural resource surveys.

To carry out the responsibilities of the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Act, it is critical that the Commission have the ability to retain expert witnesses for determination of impacts to wetlands and watercourses in order to reach and maintain defensible decisions. Court case law has established that the finding of adverse impacts and justification for conditions of approval requires technical expertise and expert evidence in the application record. The Commission uses the expertise of staff members, and regional and state technical offices when available, however specific technical expertise may be required during the application process within a limited time frame. Having sufficient funding available to procure services when expert review is needed is essential in consideration of the strict time frames established by State Statute for rendering decisions on inland wetland applications.

The fee schedule for Inland Wetland permit applications allows the Commission to charge the applicant for third party expert reviews and technical evaluations deemed necessary to assist in the review of complex permit applications. However, the Commission continues to require funds for obtaining professional expertise on items other than those duties associated with complex permit applications.

Expenditures under this item are difficult to predict and are related to the number and complexity of permit applications, public hearings, enforcement proceedings and technical needs of the Commission. The requested amount will fund an estimated 25 -35 hours of professional service at a rate of \$100 - \$150/hr.

The requested budget amount is consistent with that approved for the FY 2024/25 budget.

TOWN OF WATERFORD

FY2026 BUDGET REQUEST

DEPARTMENT: CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Planning Services Line 10114-52031

\$ 12,000 Requested

The Conservation Commission conducts a water quality monitoring program of freshwater streams and ponds in Waterford. Samples are collected at 30 locations in the early summer and late fall of a calendar year to track water quality over the growing season and monitor changes in quality over time. Sampling is conducted on Jordan Brook, Nevins Brook, Fenger Brook, Hunts Brook, Stony Brook, Oil Mill Brook and its tributaries, Millstone (Beebe) Brook, Green Swamp Brook and a tributary stream to Goshen Cove. Water quality parameters monitored include total coliform, e. coli and enterococci bacteria, temperature, pH, and nutrient loadings from nitrogen compounds and phosphorus.

The surface water quality monitoring program has been conducted for the past 24 years by the Conservation Commission and has generated comprehensive data on the quality of the town's water resources. This data is used to evaluate potential impacts of land development on stream health and to track changes in water chemistry over time. It also provides a scientific basis for the Conservation Commission to establish required levels of stormwater treatment for development proposals, and water quality mitigation goals for enforcement proceedings.

Jordan Brook, Oil Mill Brook and Stony Brook support native trout and high quality waters. Habitat requirements for these fisheries include cool, oxygenated waters with suitable substrate conditions to provide food and aquatic habitat. Alteration of adjacent lands, loss of vegetative cover, soil erosion, flow alterations, septic system discharges and stormwater run-off can adversely impact the biological conditions of these watercourses. The monitored temperature, nitrogen and phosphorus levels in these streams continue to indicate high quality surface waters.

The 2022 State of Connecticut Integrated Water Quality Report, submitted by CT DEEP to the EPA, identifies Alewife Cove, Jordan Cove, and areas of Niantic Bay and the Niantic River as impaired estuaries that do not fully support designated uses of habitat for fish and other aquatic wildlife. Fenger Brook is listed as not supporting designated uses for aquatic life and recreation. The section of Hunts Brook downstream of the Miller Pond dam is listed as not supporting fish and aquatic life habitat. The lower reach of Stony Brook south of Route 1 is listed as impaired for recreational use due to bacteria. The State is developing restoration policies to improve water quality and habitat of impaired waters.

The Commission continues to monitor bacteria, nitrogen and phosphorus levels in stream reaches that discharge to Alewife Cove, Jordan Cove, and the Niantic River, including Hunts Brook, Fenger Brook and Stony Brook. This long-term water quality monitoring is a critical part of the natural resource inventory work the Commission conducts and allows tracking of trends in water quality from land use changes and provides an indication of where water quality may be affected. Town staff conducts the sampling to minimize costs. Cost variations are linked to the number of water samples collected.

The requested budget amount is consistent with that approved in the previous fiscal year.

TOWN OF WATERFORD
FY2026 BUDGET REQUEST
DEPARTMENT: CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Dues, Conferences and Education Line 10114-52050

\$ 600 Requested

Expenditures from this line item include membership dues, commission and staff training, attendance at seminars and workshops. The Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act [CGS 22a-36 - 22a-45a] recommends members of inland wetland agency complete a comprehensive training program developed by the CT DEEP. Commissioners also attend environmental education conferences and legal seminars regarding inland wetlands to keep informed of changes to State Statute or case law affecting application review practices, public hearing records and decision-making for Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Regulations application. The Commission satisfies the minimum required training recommended by CT DEEP for inland wetlands agencies.

The Commission is requesting the same amount for this item as approved in the previous fiscal year to maintain the level of training of its members and staff.

Printing Line 10114-52060

\$ 25 Requested

Expenditures under this line item include printing of oversized documents, maps and colored copies, which cannot be printed or are unavailable at Town facilities. As a result of changes in court procedures, some printing funds may be necessary to reproduce, in paper or digital format, large documents and files. The amount requested under this line item is the same as approved in the previous fiscal year.

Other Supplies Line 10114-53020

\$ 500 Requested

Funds in this account are used to purchase and maintain environmental testing/monitoring equipment, safety equipment, survey flagging, and Conservation Easement and Non-Encroachment Boundary Line markers for field markings. This equipment allows the Conservation Commission with its professional staff to perform wetland identification, water testing, natural resource inventory and conservation easement boundary marking that would otherwise require contracting for outside professional services.

The amount requested under this line item is the same as approved in the previous fiscal year.

TOWN OF WATERFORD

FY2026 BUDGET REQUEST

DEPARTMENT: CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Conservation Commission Development Commission 5 Year History of Expenditures										
	FY2024 ORIGINAL BUDGET	FY2024 ACTUAL	FY2023 ORIGINAL BUDGET	FY2023 ACTUAL	FY2022 ORIGINAL BUDGET	FY2022 ACTUAL	FY2021 ORIGINAL BUDGET	FY2021 ACTUAL	FY2020 ORIGINAL BUDGET	FY2020 ACTUAL
CONSERVATION COMMISSION										
SERVICES:										
10114-52010-101-010-13-00-52 ADVERTISING	1,500	1,069	1,500	1,599	1,500	1,105	1,500	989	1,500	902
10114-52020-101-010-13-00-52 POSTAGE	125	112	125	112	125	84	125	106	125	104
10114-52030-101-010-13-00-52 PROFESSIONAL FEES	3,500	-	3,500	-	3,500	-	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
10114-52031-101-010-13-00-52 PLANNING SERVICES	12,000	7,804	12,000	6,278	12,000	6,357	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
10114-52050-101-010-13-00-52 DUES, CONFERENCES & EDUCATION	600	295	600	315	600	275	600	295	600	455
10114-52060-101-010-13-00-52 PRINTING	25	-	25	-	25	-	25	-	25	-
Total SERVICES	17,750	9,280	17,750	8,304	17,750	7,821	17,750	16,890	17,750	16,961
MATERIALS & SUPPLIES:										
10110-53020-101-010-10-00-53 OTHER SUPPLIES	500	0	500	253	500	0	500	366	500	8
Total MATERIALS & SUPPLIES	500	0	500	253	500	0	500	366	500	8
TOTAL	18,250	9,280	18,250	8,557	18,250	7,821	18,250	17,256	18,250	16,969

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Proposed Fiscal Year 2026**SERVICES:**

10114-52010-101-010-14-00-52 ADVERTISING	1,500
10114-52020-101-010-14-00-52 POSTAGE	125
10114-52030-101-010-14-00-52 PROFESSIONAL FEES	3,500
10114-52031-101-010-14-00-52 PLANNING SERVICES	12,000
10114-52050-101-010-14-00-52 DUES,CONFERENCES & EDUCATION	600
10114-52060-101-010-14-00-52 PRINTING	25

TOTAL	17,750
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MATERIALS & SUPPLIES:

10114-53020-101-010-14-00-53 OTHER SUPPLIES	500

TOTAL	500
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TOTAL	18,250
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MEETING MINUTES

Conservation Commission
October 10 2024, 6:30 p.m.
Auditorium, Waterford Town Hall

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
WATERFORD, CT
2024 OCT 15 1 P 201
ATTEST: *[Signature]*
TOWN CLERK

Members Present: Matthew Keatley, David Lersch, Tali Maidelis, Chairman Richard Muckle, Wade Thomas
Members Absent: Keith Kriet (notified), Geneva Renegar (notified)
Alternates Present: Ivy Plis
Alternates Absent: Matthew Shea, (1 Vacancy)
Staff Present: Maureen FitzGerald, Environmental Planner; Kim Powell, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Muckle at 6:31p.m. I. Plis was seated for K. Kriet

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Made by T. Maidelis seconded by W. Thomas to approve the September 26, 2024 meeting minutes.

Vote: 5-0-1 [D. Lersch abstained]

3. NEW APPLICATIONS

There were none.

4. APPLICATION REVIEW

C-24-09 – 234 Bloomingdale Rd, Quaker Hill: New Residential Construction; Integrity Properties, Applicant; Michael Jezierski, Owner; CLA Engineers, Agent
The applicant's agent requested this item be tabled to allow time to respond to staff comments.

5. VIOLATIONS

12 Perkins Farm Road: Revised Consent Order signed and returned. Corrective work to be completed in 60 days

Staff noted the consent order was signed by the property owners and returned on October 1, 2024.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioners were reminded to notify staff if they plan to attend the CACIWC Annual Conference so registrations can be submitted at the discounted rate. Commissioner Muckle noted he would like to be registered for the conference.

D. Lersch invited members of the Commission to attend the Waterford Land Trust Annual Meeting on October 26, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the Stacy Barn. A guest speaker will be discussing forested habitat for birds.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

2025 Conservation Commission Meeting Schedule

Motion: Made by T. Maidelis seconded by I. Plis to approve the meeting schedule for 2025.

Vote: 6-0

2023-2024 Draft Annual Report

Staff presented the Draft Annual Report and explained the water sampling graphs in the report. Water monitoring efforts have proven to be valuable for the Commission when reviewing permits prior to approval and to enforce regulations.

Staff will prepare the 2025-2026 Annual Budget for Commission review at the next meeting. The budget is due to Board of Finance November 1, 2024.

Motion: Made by T. Maidelis seconded by W. Thomas to accept the draft annual report and staff to forward the final annual report to the Board of Finance.

Vote: 6-0

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Made by T. Maidelis seconded by I. Plis to adjourn.

Vote: 6-0 Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Powell".

Kim Powell, Recording Secretary