

MEETING MINUTES
Waterford Conservation Commission
March 12, 2026, 6:30 p.m.
Auditorium, Waterford Town Hall

Members Present: David Lersch, Tali Maidelis, Richard Muckle & Wade Thomas
Members Absent: Keith Kriet, Ivy Plis & Geneva Renegar
Alternates Present: David DeNoia
Alternates Absent: Avery Holzworth & Matthew Shea
Staff Present: Maureen Fitzgerald, Environmental Planner
Cassandre Grote, Recording Secretary

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ATTEST: *[Signature]*
TOWN CLERK

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Muckle at 6:33 p.m.
D. DeNoia was seated for K. Kriet.

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Made by T Maidelis, seconded by D. Lersch to approve the February 26, 2026 meeting minutes.

Vote: 5 – 0

3. NEW APPLICATION – No new applications received.

4. APPLICATION REVIEW –

C-26-02: 435 Mohegan Avenue Parkway: Mamacoke Brook Restoration; Owner/Applicant – Connecticut College

Josh Wilson, professional wetlands scientist with BioHabitats introduced Maggie Redfern, Connecticut College Arboretum Director, and Professor Doug Thompson of Connecticut College. M. Redfern and D. Thompson provided a brief overview of the history of the Arboretum property, past studies on the erosion of the channel, and student projects focused on restoration. They explained that the discovery of the archeological significance of the area led to the revision of plans to focus on erosion control.

J. Wilson reviewed the details of the proposed plan, highlighting the three segments of the project. Segment 1 will be comprised of Post Assisted Log Structures (PALS) that will be hand laid without the use of machinery. The intention is for the PALS to degrade over time. Segment 2 will require the use of machinery to bring in material. Channel treatment between the cascades will include riffle structures and dynamic boulder clusters to reduce erosion and increase in-stream habitat diversity. The goal of the work in Segment 3 is to evenly distribute water flow across the marsh. This will be achieved by the use of Post-and-Wattle structures which will be staked perpendicular to flow, and will be installed without the use of heavy equipment. There was discussion about what type of wood will be used for these structures. J. Wilson and M. Redfern noted that it would likely be white pine and ash trees, as those are readily available on the arboretum property. J. Wilson noted that Segment 3 includes a large area of phragmites. Due to the archeologically sensitive nature of the area, there is to be no disruption to the root mass. Instead, surface level herbicides will be used, and then the biomass will be removed. J. Wilson noted that access to the site would be from the North side of Benham Avenue, and timber matting will be used within the archeological site, and

woodchip roads in other areas. He noted that they are trying to avoid the use of geotextile and stone paths.

J. Wilson provided calculations regarding the area of wetland disturbance and fill. There will be a total of 690 linear feet of stream enhancement, 430 ft. in the upper reach, and 260 ft. in the lower reach. In the middle reach, there will be 655 linear feet of stream restoration and creation. This amounts to a total of 1,345 linear feet of stream activity. The estimated total volume of material for restoration and creation in the middle reach is 330 cubic yards, of which approximately 200 cubic yards will be imported. There will be 19,687 sqft of supplemental planting in the lower reach.

J. Wilson and D. Thompson answered questions from the Commission. Boulders will be approximately one to two feet in diameter. Some boulders of two to three feet in diameter are currently in the channel. Wattles will be pushed down into the sediment, vegetation will then grow around them to create berms. They noted that decay is a good thing and will mimic natural features. The goal is to stabilize in the short term to allow vegetation to grow and naturally create long term stabilization. No invertebrate studies were conducted, as the channel is only intermittent.

Motion: Made by T. Maidelis, seconded by W. Thomas to request Staff to prepare a draft approval for application C-26-02, Mamacoke Brook Restoration.

Vote: 5 – 0

5. VIOLATIONS – No violations discussed.

6. OTHER BUSINESS –

Staff distributed an informational flyer for an upcoming workshop regarding Alewife Cove.

7. CORRESPONDENCE – No correspondence received.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Made by T. Maidelis, seconded by W. Thomas to adjourn the meeting at 7:24p.m.

Vote: 5 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,



Cassandre Grote
Recording Secretary