

STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND INCORPORATED 1786

### TOWN OF ELLINGTON 55 MAIN STREET - PO BOX 187 ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187 www.ellington-ct.gov

TEL. (860) 870-3120 TOWN PLANNER'S OFFICE FAX (860) 870-3122

### INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY REGULAR MEETING AGENDA MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

### IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT REMOTE ATTENDANCE: VIA ZOOM MEETING, INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BELOW

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items):
- III. PUBLIC HEARING(S): None
- IV. OLD BUSINESS: None

### V. NEW BUSINESS:

- IW202501 DW Fish Home Builders, LLC, owner/ Hull Forest Products, Inc., applicant, request to accept notification of a timber harvest permitted as of right on 217 Jobs Hill Road, APN 067-001-0000.
- Ellington McIntire, LLC, owner/applicant, request for positive referral to the Planning & Zoning Commission on a re-subdivision to create one new 1.11+/- acre lot (S202501) pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. 8-26(e) at 153 Webster Road, APN 185-001-0000.

### VI. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

- 1. Approval of December 9, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.
- 2. Election of Officers
- 3. Correspondence/Discussion:
  - a. North Central Conservation District Annual Report.
  - b. North Central Conservation District Funding Request FY 25-26.
  - c. Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists (CAWS) Conference March 5, 2025.

### VII. ADJOURNMENT:

Next Regular Meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2025.

Instructions to attend remotely via Zoom Meeting listed below. The agenda is posted on the Town of Ellington webpage (<u>www.ellington-ct.gov</u>) under Agenda & Minutes, Inland Wetlands Agency.

Join Zoom Meeting via link Link: <u>https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86896303362</u> Meeting ID: 868 9630 3362 Passcode: 031560 Join Zoom Meeting by phone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) Meeting ID: 868 9630 3362 Passcode: 031560

## **NOTIFICATION OF TIMBER HARVEST**

IW 202501

RECEIVED

Town: Ellington Property Location: 21	7 Jobs Hill Road	Date:	12/19/24		DEC 30 2024
List all parcels: Assessor's Info;	Map         Block           120         1         1	0	OR:	Unique	PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Total acreage of prope	rty(s): 45.48		Total acrea	ge of harvest area: <u>+/-</u> :	36,66
Mailing Address: 220 F Town: Vernon, CT Phone ( ) E-mail: Note: Timber harvestin those practices regulated	Zip_06066	4 <i>ctivity</i> gh 22a-4	Mailing Add Town: Phone ( ) E-mail: pursuant to 1 45 of the Cor	inecticut General Statute	Zip
Forest Practitioner C Name: Austin Harmo Address: 101 Hampto E-mail: harmon@hu	on c/o Hull Forest Products, Inc. n Road Pomfret Center, CT 06259	er O	R	certified: rvising Forest Product: 377-0115	s Harvester
Property Boundaries:	Ti	imber I	Harvest Bou	ndaries:	

Bounds are marked: ⊠Yes □No

Have been marked or flagged: XIYes □No

Have owners of all lands within 100 feet of the harvest area been notified via first-class mail prior to filing this "Notification of Timber Harvest"? DYes ØNo

Estimated starting date of timber harvesting operations: 4 /1 /25

Description of T Objective: Income					
Treatment: Selec	ton harvest with g	roup selection	I		
Amount of fores	t products to h Board feet	e harvested 188	l: Cords	Cubic feet	Tons
How have the tre 忍They have been 口They have not b	marked with p	sted been d aint at eye le	esignated? evel and at ground 1	evel. Paint color(s): Blue	

This is not an official CT DEP form but it has been endorsed for town usage by: CT Farm Bureau Assoc., CT Forest & Park Assoc., CT Professional Timber Producers, Society of American Foresters - CT Chapter, and others.

## SOIL, WATER AND INLAND WETLANDS RESOURCES

## Actions Being Performed On This Land

(Check all that apply and locate on attached Timber Harvest Area map -- see information below on maps.)

<u>Crossings / Clearing</u>	Erosion and Sedimentation Control Measures:
Temporary stream/drainage crossing	□Installation of water bars
Temporary wetlands crossing	□Grading
Removal of trees in wetlands	□Seeding
KIRemoval of trees in upland review area	與Other (describe below)
<u>Log landing area</u> : 與anti-tracking pad 口curb cut X Exsting access road, will be enhanced as needed	Roads Are new roads, other than skid trails, to be constructed for transport of logs or other activities associated with this harvest? \u2224 Yes XINo

## Describe in further detail as necessary:

Diameter limit harvest removing most softwood sawtimber trees and hardwood sawtimber & poletimber trees. Crossing 1 is an existing access road that is built above the wetland, temporary timber bridge mats and/or other material may be installed if necessary to improve access. Crossing 2 is an existing stone bridge over Bahlers Brook, temporary timber bridge mats may be used to disperse machine weight while crossing. Crossing 3 is a previously used crossing over Bahlers Brook and would be supported with temporary timber bridge mats. Removal of trees in the wetland would only be limited to those

inhibiting machine/vehicle access. Seed, hay, and/or water bars will be implemented as needed post-harvest. All CT DEEP BMP's will be strictly adhered to. The following maps are attached to this "Notification" (Check all that apply)

Copy of USGS topographic map with property outlined

Copy of Assessor's map with property outlined

NTimber Harvest Area map showing outline of harvest area, main skid road locations, log landing area, truck access roads, inland wetlands, watercourses and any crossings

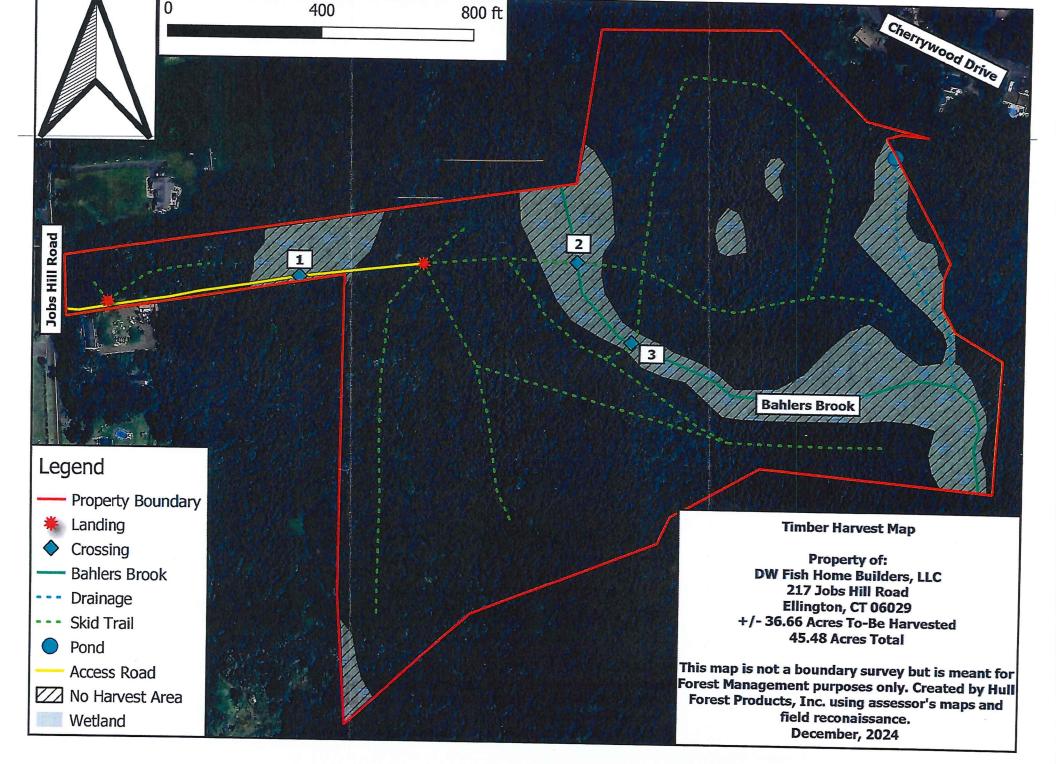
## The undersigned hereby swear that the information contained in this application is true, accurate and complete to the best of my (our) knowledge and belief and that the timber harvest will be conducted in accordance with the specifications outlined in this "Notification of Timber Harvest # // /

Signature of Lando	$\operatorname{downer(s):} \qquad (1 + 5 + 1) = 0 \text{ Date:} (2 - 2 - 3 - 3)$	2024
Print/Type Name:	Donald W. Fish for DW Fish Home Bullders, LLC	I
Signature of Lando	lowner(s): Date:	
Print/Type Name:		
Signature of Certifi	fied Forest Practitioner:	
Print Name: Austin I	Harmon	
Complete and Submit	Certificate #: 001348 Expiration Date: 10 / 1 / 2027	

- The Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency/les in which the property is located, and

- A courtesy copy of this Notification Form should also be sent to The Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Forestry 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT, Tel: (860) 424-3630

This is not an official CT DEP form but it has been endorsed for town usage by: CT Farm Bureau Assoc., CT Forest & Park Assoc., CT Professional Timber Producers, Society of American Foresters - CT Chapter, and others.



### **GARDNER & PETERSON ASSOCIATES, LLC**

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS • LAND SURVEYORS 178 HARTFORD TURNPIKE TOLLAND, CONNECTICUT 06084

KENNETH R. PETERSON, L.S. ERIC R. PETERSON, P.E., L.S. MARK A. PETERSON, P.E.

TELEPHONE: (860) 871-0808 www.GardnerPeterson.com info@GardnerPeterson.com

January 8, 2025

Mrs. Jean Burns Chairman-Inland Wetlands Agency 57 Main Street P.O. Box 187 Ellington, Connecticut 06029 RECEIVED

NUMBER FUELD

TOWN OF ELEINGTON PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Re: Resubdivision Ellington McIntire, LLC

Dear Mrs. Burns and Agency Members,

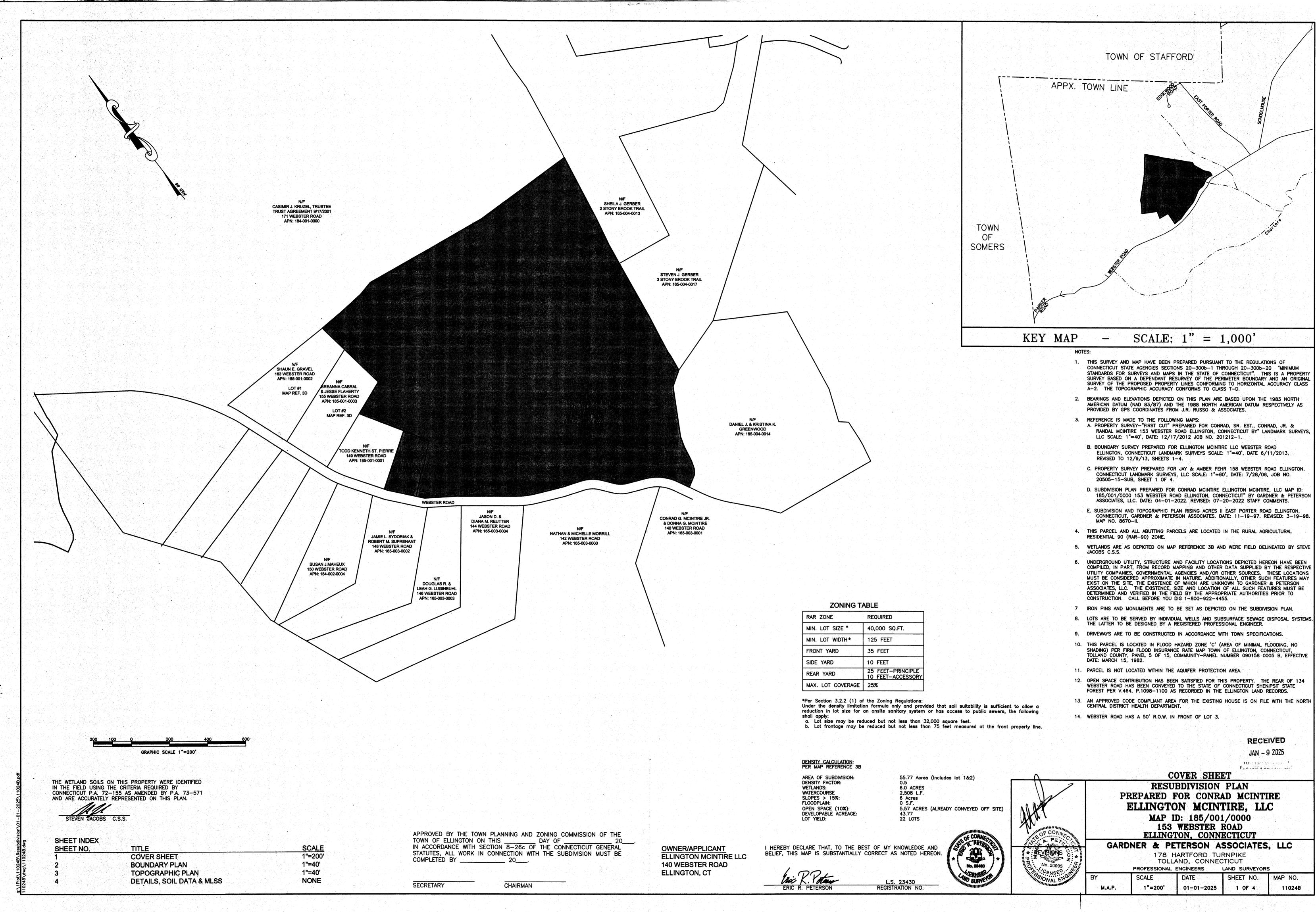
At the request of the applicant, Ellington McIntire, LLC, I hereby request a positive referral from the Inland Wetland Agency to the Planning & Zoning Commission for the proposed Resubdivision Plan titled Ellington McIntire, LLC dated 01-01-2025.

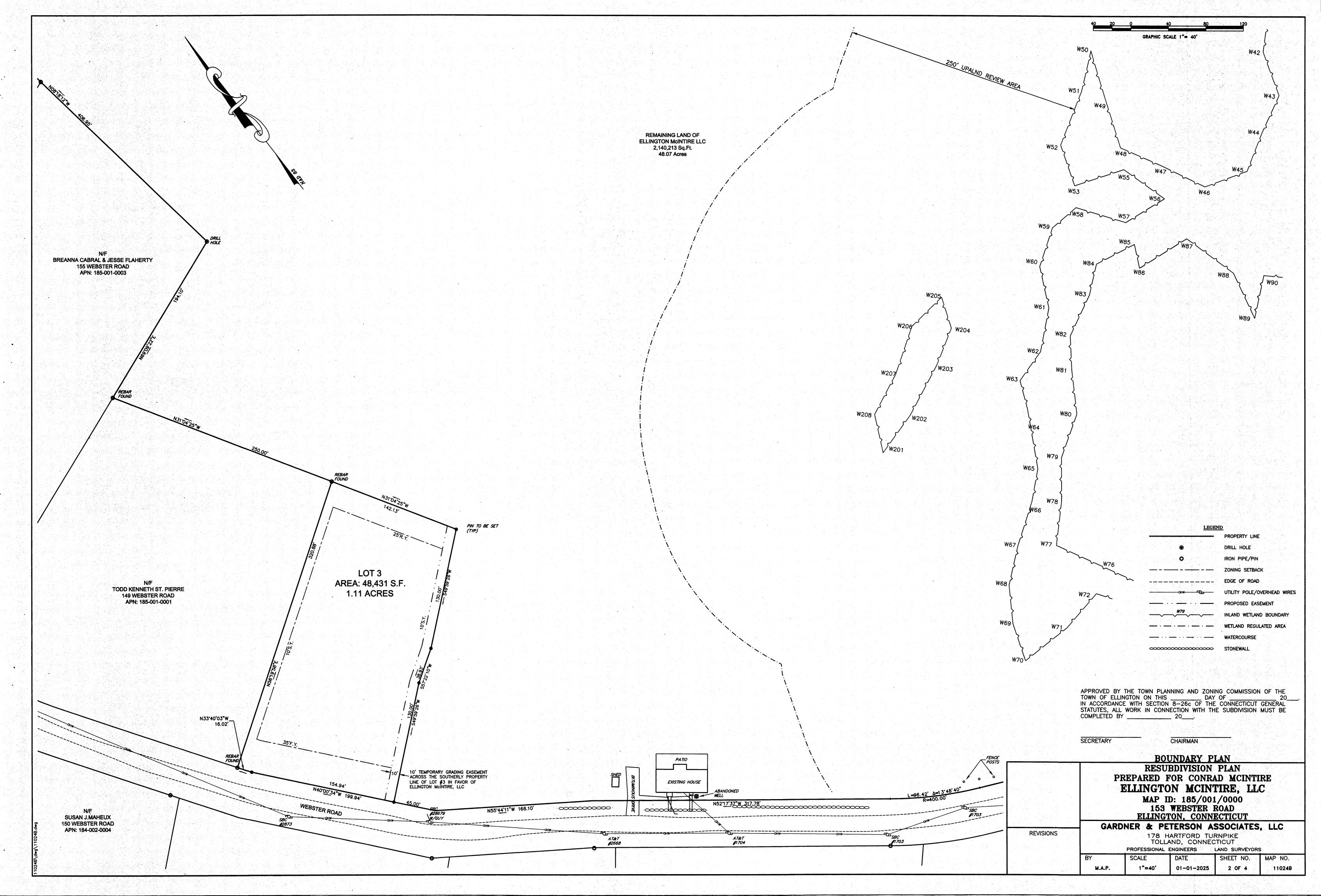
The resubdivision plans propose one new building lot on the east side of Webster Road to the south of 149 Webster Road. Inland Wetlands were field delineated on site by Steve Jacobs, C.S.S. and all proposed construction activities are located outside the wetlands and the 250' upland review area. The resubdivision plan includes proposed sedimentation and erosion controls to protect areas downgrade of site construction.

Yours truly,

Mark A. Peterson, P.E.

IWC referral.doc







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### INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY REGULAR MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

### IN PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET REMOTE ATTENDANCE: ZOOM MEETING (ATTENDEES BELOW WERE IN PERSON UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

- **PRESENT:** Chairman Jean Burns, Vice Chairman Katherine Heminway, Regular members Ken Braga, Steve Hoffman, Landon Barlow, Alternates Ryan Orszulak and Jon Kaczmarek (via zoom)
- ABSENT: Regular members Ron Brown and Hocine Baouche

### STAFF

- **PRESENT:** John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner/Wetland Enforcement Officer and Barbra Galovich, Recording Clerk
- I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jean Burns called the Ellington Inland Wetlands Agency meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): None

### **III. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

1. IW202423 – David Mangold, owner/ applicant, request for a permit to conduct regulated activity to remove existing cottage and construct a detached accessory apartment and associated site improvements at 44 East Shore Road, APN 169-043-0001.

Time: 7:01 Seated: Burns, Heminway, Braga, Hoffman, Barlow, Orszulak, and Kaczmarek

Mark Peterson, Gardner & Peterson Associates, LLC, 178 Hartford Turnpike, Tolland, CT and David Mangold, 44 East Shore Road were present to represent the application.

Mark Peterson explained that the parcel is located on the west side of East Shore Road. The plan is to tear down the existing cottage and rebuild a new accessory dwelling 8 feet further back from the edge of the lake than the original structure. Mark showed the wetlands along the rear of the property and edge of Crystal Lake, which extend along the existing driveway. Mark showed the proposed layout of the property and noted the accessory dwelling will have a covered porch. Mark explained silt fence and haybales will surround the area of construction. The original cottage was built back in the late 1950's.

Commissioner Hoffman asked if any work would be done to the existing house, Mark Peterson noted that no work would be done.

Commissioner Barlow asked if there would be any proposed work between the location of the haybales and the lake. Mark Peterson verified that no work will be done within the area. Commissioner Hoffman inquired about the retaining wall on the east side of the property to be built by others. Mark said the wall will be constructed into the existing land as part of the accessory dwelling. The dwelling will be constructed on a concrete slab, with no basement and serviced by the existing sewer system, well and underground utilities. Mark noted there will be 4,800 sf of upland review disturbance and no wetlands disturbance. Commissioner Hoffman asked about the 12-inch pipe outlet. Mark showed how the flow of runoff sheds down towards the lake behind the existing house, and how surface water is diverted to a culvert under the driveway.

Commissioner Barlow asked if there were any comments from the Town Engineer. John Colonese read Dana Steele, Town Engineer, email comments dated December 9, 2024, "I've reviewed the plan prepared by Gardner & Peterson Associates, LLC dated 9/1/24. Appropriate erosion controls are proposed, and a yard drain and roof runoff will be directed to an existing driveway culvert. I take no exception to the plans as submitted."

## MOVED (BRAGA) SECONDED (HOFFMAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO MAKE A DETERMINATION OF A NON-SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY FOR IW202423.

**MOVED (HEMINWAY) SECONDED (BRAGA) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR IW202423** – David Mangold, owner/ applicant, request for a permit to conduct regulated activity to remove existing cottage and construct a detached accessory apartment and associated site improvements at 44 East Shore Road, APN 169-043-0001.

**MOVE (HOFFMAN) SECONDED (HEMINWAY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS FOR IW202423** – David Mangold, owner/ applicant, request for a permit to conduct regulated activity to remove existing cottage and construct a detached accessory apartment and associated site improvements at 44 East Shore Road, APN 169-043-0001.

### CONDITION(S):

- 1. Shall obtain Water Pollution Control Authority approval.
- 2. Erosion control measures shall be installed then inspected by the wetlands agent prior to activity and remain operational until the site is stabilized.

### IV. OLD BUSINESS: None

### V. NEW BUSINESS:

1. IW202424 – Kayder Properties, LLC owner/ Syn-Mar Products, Inc., applicant, request for a permit to conduct regulated activity to construct a building addition including associated site improvements and maintain existing stormwater basins at 5 Nutmeg Drive, APN 017-022-0007.

Andrew Bushnell, Bushnell Associates, LLC, 563 Woodbridge Street, Manchester, CT and Tim J. Hill, 315 Jobs Hill Road, Ellington, CT were present to represent the application.

Andrew Bushnell stated the owner is looking to construct a 156'x77' addition to the existing building and a small corner of the proposed building and grading is within the upland review area. Andrew reviewed the plan showing where the proposed silt fence will be installed. There will be 3,950 sf of disturbance in the upland review area. Andrew showed pictures of the area around and within the existing detention basins and noted the owner would like to clean out the overgrowth so that the basins can function correctly. The stormwater basins were previously designed and constructed with the intention of constructing the addition in the future, therefore the existing basins can accommodate the proposed addition.

John Colonese read Dana Steele, Town Engineer, email comments dated December 9, 2024, as follows, "I've reviewed the proposed plan by Bushnell Associates, LLC dated 4/26/24 and compared it to the original approved plans by JR Russo & Associates dated 1/20/06 and the proposed addition and pavement expansion is substantially similar to previous approval. The additional 16 parking spaces on the west side of the property are no longer proposed. Instead, there are 8 spaces proposed on the east side along with a gravel access drive on the south side of the addition. While there will be a slight increase in impervious surfaces within the eastern watershed, overall the site has less impervious surfaces. The new surfaces are also somewhat disconnected from the existing stormwater basin allowing opportunity for stormwater treatment and infiltration. The proposed improvements are therefore consistent with the previous approval and should not adversely impact stormwater discharge to the surrounding wetlands. I take no exception to the plans."

Commissioner Barlow requested that any future improvements to the site beyond what is shown on the plan comply with current stormwater management plan standards. Upon discussion, the agency also requested that a maintenance schedule for the existing stormwater management basins be added to the plan.

**MOVED (BRAGA) SECONDED (HOFFMAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE WITH CONDITIONS FOR IW202424** – Kayder Properties, LLC owner/ Syn-Mar Products, Inc., applicant, request for a permit to conduct regulated activity to construct a building addition including associated site improvements and maintain existing stormwater basins at 5 Nutmeg Drive, APN 017-022-0007.

### CONDITIONS:

- 1. Shall obtain Water Pollution Control Authority approval.
- 2. Erosion control measures shall be installed then inspected by the wetlands agent prior to activity and remain operational until the site is stabilized.
- 3. A maintenance schedule for the existing stormwater management basins shall be added to the plan.
- 4. Any future improvements to the site shall comply with current stormwater management plan standards.

### VI. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of November 18, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.

## MOVED (BRAGA) SECONDED (HEMINWAY) (HOFFMAN - ABSTAINED) AND PASSED TO APPROVE NOVEMBER 18, 2024, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

- 2. Correspondence/Discussion:
  - a. CT Bar Association Education & Training Webinar, Saturday, March 22, 2025 Connecticut Land Use Law for Municipal Land Use Agencies, Boards and Commissions.

### VII. ADJOURNMENT:

## MOVED (BRAGA) SECONDED (BARLOW) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 9, 2024, REGULAR MEETING OF THE INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY AT 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbra Galovich, Recording Clerk

	3
Plant and Seedling Sale	116,567
State of CT	100,000
LISFF Grant Projects	90,942
Fee for Service	63,181
CWA Section 319 Grant Projects	32,800

### Income

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT\*** July 2023—June 2024



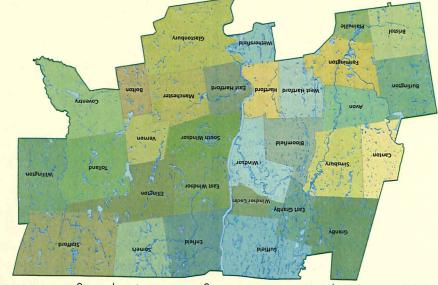


# North Central **Conservation** District

## North Central Conservation District

### Introduction

Construction General Permit), an annual Plant and Seedling Sale fundraiser, and private grants/contributions. Conservation Districts), fee for service (including inspections of solar installations under the CT DEEP Agriculture and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (via the National Association of and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation), technical assistance contracts with the CT Department of State of CT (Passport to Parks), municipal contributions, US EPA-funded grants (administered by CT DEEP shall assist the commissioner in implementing programs concerning such matters." NCCD is funded by the [of DEEP] on matters of soil and water conservation, soil health, erosion and sedimentation control and This Annual Report summarizes work performed by the North Central Conservation District (NCCD, or the Districts during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. NCCD is one of five 501(c)(3) non-profit Conservation Districts created by state statute, amended in 2021 to specify that Districts "shall advise the commissioner Districts" on protocol and the commissioner of second state statute, amended in 2021 to specify that Districts "shall advise the commissioner of the Districts are stated by state statute, amended in 2021 to specify that Districts "shall advise the commissioner of the Districts are stated by state stated and the state stated by state stated by state stated by state stated by the North State stated by st



NCCD's service area includes 30 municipalities within north central CT, essentially comprising the area within the northern Connecticut River watershed. NCCD's office is located in Vernon.

Kelly has continued to lend her technical knowledge as needed, and to help transition and mentor new staff. fiscal year, she is included in the list below as part of our current staff. We are very grateful that Barbara ideal candidate, Alyssa Barroso. While Alyssa did not begin work until shortly after the end of the 2024 vill, left our staff for an out-of-state position. We began a hiring effort, and were fortunate to identify an or call (860) 875-3881 for more. Toward the end of FY24, our Natural Resource Specialist, Cameron Cothe Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, Vernon. Visit www.conservect.org/northcentral the public and are typically held at 7:00pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month, either virtually or at Conservation Districts, and CT Resource Conservation and Development Council. Meetings are open to of the CT Envirothon Steering Committee, CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation, CT Association of and interest in the management and protection of our natural resources. The District is an active member The District is governed by a volunteer board of directors comprised of local landowners with expertise

Bookkeeper

Tina Pelletier

Robert Morra	Bolton	Ginny Patsun	Soil Conservation Specialist
Michael Mocko	Stafford Springs		*Limited technicallmentor work
Harold Eastwood	Somers	Barbara Kelly	Soil Scientist/CPESC/Mentor
Bob DePietro	Bolton	llivoD noremsD	Natural Resource Specialist *Left NCCD in May 2024
Dan Camerota	Stafford	line grandereg	*Beginning July 2024, after FY24
Lin Marino, Secretary/Treasurer	DuslloT	Alyssa Barroso	Natural Resource Specialist
Jane Seymour, Vice Chair	Tolland	In alphabetical order	
Jack Collins, Chair	bləifn∃	Joanna Shapiro	Executive Director
Board of Supervisors		ftet2	

Glastonbury

Anthony Patelunas



Year in Review

incredible volunteers from the CT Master Gardener professional tent rental in Bloomfield. NCCD staff and We pushed the limits of staff and space, requiring a year in a row, sales increased to a new record high. (Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy). For the fourth (TAC) in Vernon and Hawk Hill Farm in Bloomfield and evergreen seedlings. The sale was held in two locations, the Tolland County Agricultural Center focusing on native plants, as well as food-bearing plants Organizing plants before assembling orders NCCD held its pre-order spring Plant and Seedling Sale,

funds for programs and promoted native plants, pollinator gardens, ecological landscaping, and program went above and beyond to assemble orders for curbside pickup. The event raised

lated to invasive plant control, native planting guidance, pond issues, navigation of local regulations,

trict also assisted area residents with natural resource issues; providing technical support re-

served as municipal wetland agent to inland wetland agencies in Somers and Bolton. The Dis-

management, and wetland impacts, as well as verifying wetland boundaries. District staff also

process, reviewing development plans to evaluate proposed erosion control measures, stormwater

towns included assistance to land use staff and commissions throughout the local regulatory The District provided valuable technical services to municipalities. Our primary services to

This fiscal year, our newer staff grew more familiar with District work, experiencing annual

events and responsibilities for the second time, and contributing meaningfully.

practiced pruning techniques with guidance. well as pruning and maintenance. Participants er planting of both bare root and potted trees, as outdoor demonstration with instruction on propincluded a classroom presentation and a hands-on The training, led by our on-staff certified arborist, held a tree planting and pruning workshop at TAC. This April, leading up to the plant sale, NCCD open space enjoyment.

Envirothon students examining the soil pit

a very special Neil Picone Memorial Wildlife award.

now ozla boowlevian Marvelwood also won



We also held a very well attended virtual native landscap-

Guided Trail Walk at Hawk Hill Farm just after the sale. presentation by Jane Seymour. We also co-sponsored a Bees, and Butterflies Using Native Plants," with an inspiring ing workshop prior to the plant sale, "Landscaping for Birds,

2024 CT Envirothon statewide competition was school year: Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future. The wildlife, soils, and the current issue for the 2023-2024 students. Workshops were held in aquatics, forestry, state-wide natural resources competition for high school NCCD coordinated the Connecticut Envirothon program, a

Open for project information thon competition in Geneva, New York in July. Connecticut in the international NCF Enviroteam, won first place overall, and represented awards. The Marvelwood School "Hawks" Energy Hank Webster helped to present tions. Acting DEEP Deputy Commissioner of station tests in the field, and gave oral presentapated in the event. Teams completed objective den. 25 teams from 16 CT high schools particiheld on May 23rd at Lockwood Farm in Ham-

Interest/Unrealized Investment	31,837
Town Contributions	25,947
CT DoAg Farmland Restoration Work	14,481
Donations and Private Grants	2,579
Total	478,334

#### Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	193,843
LISFF Grant Projects	132,581
Plant/Seedling Sale	82,180**
Taxes/Insurance/Fees	15,364
Contracted Work (FLRP & Solar)	14,619
Rent for Office Space	9,120
Office Expenses/Postage/Equipment	5,637
Financial Review/Accountant	2,500
Auto Expenses and Mileage	3,949
Employee Development	1,120
Dues/Marketing/Misc	245
Total	461,158

\*Cash basis. Detailed accrual-based financial statement available upon request.

\*\*Not including an expense for the prior fiscal year.

## **Annual Report** Fiscal Year 2024

www.conservect.org/northcentral

## Grant/Project Work

### **Project Work Overview**

This fiscal year, NCCD made significant progress toward implementation of two very impactful water quality enhancement projects; updates provided below. In addition to these major projects, NCCD is also part of a statewide effort, partnering with all of the Conservation Districts in CT on a Long Island Sound Future Fund (LISFF) grant to incorporate social and environmental equity into our organizations and work. NCCD continued to assist CT Department of Agriculture (DoAg) by providing technical assistance for the Farmland Restoration program, specifically on flood-impacted farms. NCCD also has a grant through the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to provide Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) to assist the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), along with agricultural producers and landowners within our district, and we have been engaged in training and building staff capacity to provide meaningful assistance. As part of our ongoing watershed planning efforts, NCCD provides fiduciary support to the Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance (BLWCA), and staff participates in month-ly meetings. In support of the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), NCCD provides inspections of large solar array installations. NCCD has also initiated an outreach effort to promote Agroforestry, including assembling and distributing a newsletter to a growing database, giving educational presentations, and is planning a demonstration food forest.

**North Branch Park River (LISFF)**—The NCCD Project Team, including familiar partners/subcontractors, the North Branch Park River Watershed Coordinator and engineering firm Fuss & O'Neill, and newer partner/subawardee Trust for Public Land, continued work on a large planning project for the North Branch Park River. This project is entitled "Planning to Reduce Pollution in the North Branch Park

River Watershed" and is funded via the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Work includes a comprehensive update to the original 2010 Watershed-Based Plan, and development and design of high-impact green infrastructure and floodplain restoration projects. In addition to a typical report format, the plan update will also utilize a dynamic web format, as an accessible "living" version of the plan.

During this fiscal year, we were in the heart of the project, with regular meetings of our Project Partners, largely consisting of key municipal and agency stakeholders with technical involvement, and a Project Advisory Group, consisting of community groups and organizations and private landowners with interest and input to guide this planning effort. We are engaging the diverse community via meetings and site walks and out-

reach events within the watershed. This engagement has helped inform green infrastructure design strategies. We have also been coordinating and sharing data with The Metropolitan District Commission and the City of Hartford, as they simultaneously have been studying flooding issues in the watershed. Data collected by Fuss & O'Neill last year progressed into many conceptual designs for potential projects in the watershed, and we are now working to select several key projects for further development, with community and landowner buy-in. Project work is scheduled for completion by December 2024.

**Broad Brook Implementation (319)**—NCCD staff has been working for years to help construct this consequential water quality project on a local dairy farm, amidst many compounding hurdles. The project will eliminate livestock access, and dramatically reduce pollutant loading, to a tributary of Broad Brook, which runs through the farm and milking herd pasture. A complete transformation in the management of livestock and agricultural waste on the farm is necessary to achieve this result, as identified in the Broad Brook Watershed Based Plan Phase 2 (completed by NCCD in 2017 using 319 funds, in partnership with CT DEEP, NRCS, and UConn Extension), and as further detailed by the NRCS during development of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan. NCCD was subsequently awarded our largest Section 319 Clean Water Act grant (EPA funds locally administered by CT DEEP) to date in late 2020, to design and construct the project. These funds supplement NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funds awarded to the farm.

The 319 project was divided into two contracts. The first, completed in FY22, was for development of an engineered design. The design yielded two primary structural solutions—a freestall barn with milkhouse, and a waste storage facility, to drive necessary changes in the management of land, animals, and waste on the farm. The freestall barn will contain

the milking herd and their waste, away from the brook and riparian areas. Additionally, the waste storage facility will allow for collection and storage of manure and milkhouse waste until timing is suitable for spreading on fields. Implementation of this project will allow effective management of the farm's waste stream, to reduce nutrient and bacteria sources to wetlands and watercourses in the Broad Brook watershed.

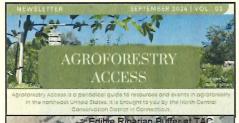
Site plan showering future improvements, on an Aerial View

CT DEEP, pursued multiple funding opportunities in pursuit of additional funding, both with CT Department of Agriculture (Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry grant, and Farm Transition Grant), and with NFWF (LISFF). The farm received the maximum \$49,999 award for the Farm Transition Grant during FY23, but we unfortunately were not awarded a Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Grant. We then pivoted and applied to the Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) at the end of FY23. That brings us to this fiscal year, when we were elated to receive word that our project was selected for the full funding requested. Reinvigorated with sufficient funding, planning resumed at full force.

While this fiscal year marked monumental progress in terms of funding and planning, this new funding source created more obstacles. As LISFF is federal funding passed through a nonprofit organization (NFWF), NCCD as a pass-through entity is subject to many stringent federal contracting requirements, particularly related to procurement of subcontractors. We embarked on a very time-consuming and painstaking process of deciphering the federal uniform guidelines and developing a formal Request for Proposals with the necessary terms and conditions for a federal contract. The project went out to bid at the end of the fiscal year, and are working toward contracting.

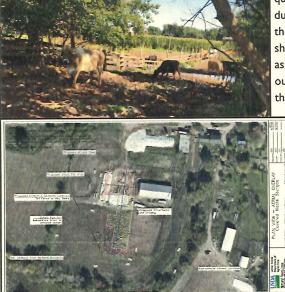


**ONFWF** 



**Agroforestry Outreach**—NCCD has been working NRCS with to promote agroforestry in Connecticut. NCCD led two field trips to educate NRCS staff on agroforestry practices at a chestnut orchard in Stafford. In addition to the training, our on-staff certified arborist facilitated a class, *Agroforestry; Permaculture with Trees*, for the UConn Extension Master Gardener Program in January. NCCD is the founding editor of *Agroforestry Access*, a periodical newsletter highlighting agroforestry events and articles; NCCD distributes the newsletter via email to a growing listserv.

NCCD, utilizing Clean Water Action Section 319 Nonpoint-Source funding via CT DEEP, is designing and will establish an Edible Riparian Buffer (ERB) on the Tolland County Agricultural Center (TAC) grounds along Gage's Brook, a tributary of the Tankerhoosen River. The ERB is also a



Milking herd accessing Kimball's Brook, south of project site



NORTH BRANCH PARK RIVER

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN



food forest, an agroforestry practice, and an NRCS-recognized climate-smart practice. It will also be used as a demonstration planting to engage and educate community members about food forests and the importance of maintaining riparian buffers to preserve the health of waterbodies. The TAC grounds contain other demonstration gardens, maintained by the CT Master Gardener Program, and this will be a wonderful addition.



**Solar SWPPP Inspections**—This year, Connecticut's Conservation Districts continued to inspect solar sites under construction throughout the state for compliance with their individual Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewater from Construction Activities ("Construction General Permit") on behalf of the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Stormwater Division. This partnership helps DEEP's Stormwater Division to regularly monitor installation of large, siting-council scale solar arrays across the state.

NCCD currently inspects four solar sites within its district, including two in Enfield, one in Ellington, and one in East Windsor. The East Windsor site is the largest in the state, including 500 acres of solar panels on an 800-acre site, yet has developed rather smoothly, and is nearing completion.





## **JONSERVATION DISTRICT, INC.**

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January 13, 2025

Mr. Mathew Reed Town Administrator Town of Ellington 55 Main Street, PO Box 187 Ellington, CT 06029

### Re: Municipal Funding request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

#### Dear Mr. Reed,

In order to provide land use consulting assistance and other programs to municipal staff, commissions, and residents, the North Central Conservation District seeks annual funding support from each of the 30 towns served. The District has not requested an increase in funding for many years, and is again asking for level funding of \$2,014.00 from the Town of Ellington, with respect for the challenging municipal budgets during this difficult economic time. This request is submitted for inclusion in the budget. Payment is requested in July of 2025, at which time a reminder will be sent.

The North Central Conservation District (NCCD) of Connecticut is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting private landowners and municipalities with natural resource information and services. Services include:

- Comprehensive wetland, soil erosion and sediment control (E&S), and stormwater plan reviews;
- E&S and stormwater site inspection and compliance monitoring;
- Wetland boundary review;
- Workshops on natural resource topics;
- Assistance with soils information and native landscaping;
- Pond inspections and troubleshooting;
- Nutrient management and conservation based agricultural services;
- Wetland Agent services and consulting to municipal Commissions.

24 HYDE AVENUE = VERNON, CT 06066 = 860.875.3881 = FAX 860.870.8973 = TOLLANDC@SNET.NET

Funding from municipalities is vital to continue the present program levels. The North Central Conservation District appreciates your support and we look forward to working with your community in the next year.

Enclosed is a copy of our FY 2024 Annual Report, highlighting much of the work completed by NCCD throughout the year, including grant work. Please distribute to Land Use staff as appropriate. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the North Central Conservation District programs, please call our office at (860) 875-3881.

Thanking you in advance,

John m Callein

John M. Collins Chairman North Central Conservation District

- Enc: Annual Report
- CC: Land Use Official

**Finance Director** 

## The CAWS Annual Meeting and

Environmental Conference will take place on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). We welcome wetland and soil scientists, ecologists, designers, and other land use specialists, government officials, municipal commission members, and environmental advocates to join us.



### Location:

**Aqua Turf Club** 

556 Mulberry Street Southington, CT 06479

### Presentations will include:

- Funding Spotlight: Opportunities with the National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) and Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF)
- CT DEEP and CT DOT Program Updates
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Primer
- Restoration of the Hammock River Wildlife Management Area
- Climate Impacts in Connecticut and Adaptation Solutions
- Connecticut In-Lieu-Fee Program
- The Ecological Consequences of Light Pollution
- 2024 CAWS Grant Recipient Reports

See the agenda and learn more on our event page.

PLUS an **exhibitor hall** featuring displays by product and service suppliers and conservation organizations (see our sponsors and other exhibitors at bottom). CEUs (TBA) and Certificates of Completion will be provided.

Registration (includes continental breakfast and lunch):

- \$100 CAWS members
- \$130 Non-members
- \$60 students (with ID)

**Register online** (you may also pay by check through the mail, but please use the online form to reserve your spot).

<u>CT Association of Wetland Scientists</u> <u>info@ctwetlands.org</u> <u>www.ctwetlands.org</u>