

**COVENTRY INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 7 PM

Town of Coventry, Town Hall Annex Building, 1712 Main Street Coventry, CT 06238  
& Zoom Teleconference

	MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT
<b>REGULAR MEMBERS:</b>	William Glenney, Chair	X	
	Lori Mathieu, Vice Chair	X	
	William Johnson	X	
	Richard Pearson	X	
	Stefanie Wierszchalek	X	
<b>ALTERNATE MEMBERS:</b>	Laura Heemskerk		X
	VACANT		

<b>STAFF:</b>	Lindsay Beutler, Environmental Planner/Wetlands Agent
	Todd Penney, P.E., Town Engineer
	Andrea Vassallo, Recording Secretary

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

W. Glenney, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.  
Richard Pearson, attended via Zoom.

**2. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.

**3. ADDITIONS/CHANGS TO THE AGENDA:** None.

**4. OLD BUSINESS:**

**A. WP-25-30 – 124 Lake Street** – Owner/Applicant: James Drumm, Town of Coventry; Agent: Benjamin Rach, GZA GeoEnvironmental. – Regulated Activity Permit application for proposed surface water circulator to reduce concentration of bacteria in the swimming area at Patriots Park. (e) *65-day extension granted. The new 65-day deadline to act on this application is **03/01/2026***

**Representing the application was:**

- Alex Taylor, Town of Coventry, Special Projects Coordinator
- James Drumm, Town of Coventry, Town Manager

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- Robert Miller, M.P.H., R.S., Director, Eastern Highlands Health District.

**Present for legal consultation:**

- Kenneth Slater, Esq., Inland/Wetlands Attorney, Halloran & Sage, via Zoom.

**Documents presented to the Commission:**

- Slater, Kenneth, Esq. Halloran & Sage, LLP., Coventry Inland/Wetlands Town Attorney, January 28, 2026, **Patriots Park Water Circulator Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Permit Application.**

**Commission Concerns/Comments from last month's meeting:**

- The need to monitor possible impacts of water aeration on other lakes.
- Potential illnesses of swimmers outside of Patriots Park especially untested private beach areas (e.g., Woodland Road).
- Asked about EHHD collecting more water samples and including more testing site locations around the lake (in addition to the 10 currently sampled).
- Once the geese have migrated away from Patriots Park, should the population reestablish itself elsewhere along the lake, is there is a plan to deter the geese.

The Commissioners discussed whether permit approval should come with additional and/or modified conditions such as:

- Addition of approximately three (3) new weekly sampling sites.
- 36-month permit duration.
- Annual reporting to the IWA.

Alex Taylor, Coventry Special Project Coordinator, addressed the Agency by stating that he and Coventry Town Manager James Drumm were present to represent the application and do not believe that the proposed activity will have significant adverse impacts to Coventry Lake. A. Taylor further stated he had no other comments or additions to the application and deferred to Attorney Kenneth Slater.

Kenneth Slater, Esq., of Halloran & Sage, Coventry Inland/Wetlands Attorney, stated his presence before the Agency is in the capacity to answer and analyze any questions on behalf of the IWA, not in the capacity as the Town Attorney as the Town is the applicant.

Attorney Slater prepared a legal memo in response to the Commissioner's inquiry into potential additional and/or modified permit conditions and presented the following:

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**Jurisdiction:** The agency has jurisdiction over the permit application, which includes the following activities: raft moorings and trenching of a power supply conduit. activities. The activities are not “by right” as it would be for boats. However, Attorney Slater concluded that legally the act of dropping and lifting of anchors and moorings of boats in watercourses will not have a material adverse impact upon them when evaluating whether the very same activity associated with a raft would have an impact on a watercourse.

**Permit Duration:** Permits can be conditioned for 2–5 years. If the activity is identical upon renewal, the agency should maintain consistency unless circumstances change. Attorney Slater concluded that if the trenching work is completed during the permit duration set by the Commission, no future permit would be required. If the moorings are removed each season, a new permit will be required after the permit expires. But in the absence of a material change in circumstances or in the law, the Commission would be required to grant a future permit application under "impotent to reverse rule."

**Permit Conditions:** Conditions must be directly related to the regulated activity (e.g., monitoring impacts from the circulator), but cannot address unrelated root causes like waterfowl unless directly tied to the project. Conditions must be relevant to the proposed activity, and monitoring of E. coli levels was discussed.

The only proposed regulated activities proposed by the Town in its application involve the trenching for a power supply to the raft and the placement and removal of moorings associated with the raft. While those activities are intended to mitigate the impacts of E. coli in the lake, they are not causally linked to the contamination itself. For that reason, the application limited to the trenching and mooring would not enable the Commission to impose conditions on the Town to undertake other water quality mitigation or monitoring activities.

**Appeal Process:** If denied or conditioned, the town (as applicant) could appeal. The memo emphasized that the agency cannot reverse prior decisions without new evidence.

#### **Further Commission Concerns/Comments:**

- Commissioners Johnson & Pearson had no further concerns or comments.
- Commissioner Wierszchalek stated she appreciated all the information from the Town and EHHD.
- Commissioner Mathieu stated she also appreciated all the information from the Town and EHHD. Acknowledged that the geese population is contributing to the point source

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pollution, however still expressed concerns over the lack of an established implementation plan to eradicate or relocate the geese population lake wide. Expressed hesitance regarding the effectiveness of water aeration to dilute pollutant loads.

- Commissioner Glenney asked A. Taylor what the purpose of proposed activity was. A. Taylor stated the circulator's purpose is to manage water quality and improve conditions for swimming. Attorney Slater reiterated that the activity before the IWA is the seasonal installation of moorings and one (1) time trenching activity associated with a permanent power supply conduit. For the IWA to impose conditions on the Town to undertake other water quality mitigation or monitoring activities could be subject to appeal in court.

**MOTION:** S. Wierszchalek **MOVED** to **APPROVE** permit **WP-25-30** – 124 Lake Street, with standard conditions. L. Mathieu **SECONDED**;

**Discussion:**

Discussion ensued among the Commissioners regarding what was still within their jurisdictional purview to regulate such as additional conditions (e.g. avian best management practices, additional monitoring locations and sampling points). Discussion further ensued among Commissioners and Town Staff regarding prior month's testimony from the health district of their state mandated requirements for testing protocols and procedural sample sizes for public access swimming areas. Whether the pollutants could migrate as a plume throughout the lake.

Robert Miller, M.P.H., R.S., Director, Eastern Highlands Health District stated that the objective is to prevent people from being exposed to infectious diseases. The water circulator alone will not adequately address all bacterial loading in natural waterbodies; strong precipitation events contribute to high levels/peak loading of bacteria and he further stated that any areas outside of the regularly tested public swimming areas, such as private swimming areas, that test positive for high concentrations of E. coli or other pollutants are far away geographically from Patriots Park swimming area and would be suspect to localized point source contaminants from nearby homes or high bather loads.

R. Miller further stated that the calculations provided by the Town hired consulting firm GZA GeoEnvironmental are sound. Pollutants would not move as a plume due to circulation activity diluting concentrated nutrient loads. In the professional opinion of health district, EHHD, the pollutants would not migrate in concentration as onsite observations, decades of historical data, and 2025 water quality testing has confirmed that waterfowl nutrient (fecal

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matter) and bather loads are two (2) equal contributors to the E. Coli concentration rates at Patriots Park.

R. Miller went on to explain that the proposed proof of concept water aeration methodology has been previously implemented on other waterbodies throughout the state and is sound science.

Commissioner Glenney asked IWA Commissioners if they want to add additional conditions. Commissioners Mathieu, Johnson, Pearson, and Wierszchalek all stated no, they did not.

**MOTION:** S. Wierszchalek **MOVED** to **APPROVE with standard conditions permit WP-25-30 – 124 Lake Street** – Owner/Applicant: James Drumm, Town of Coventry; Agent: Benjamin Rach, GZA GeoEnvironmental. – Regulated Activity Permit application for proposed surface water circulator to reduce concentration of bacteria in the swimming area at Patriots Park.

L. Mathieu **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:1:0**

<b>Yea</b>	Mathieu, Johnson, Pearson, Wierszchalek
<b>Nay</b>	Glenney
<b>Abstain</b>	0

**B. WP-25-36 – 346 Stonehouse Road** – Owner: Daniel Fowler; Applicant: Titan Construction; Agent: Mark Peterson of Gardner and Peterson. – Proposed two family home within upland review area.

**Representing the application was:**

- Mark Peterson, P.E., Agent, Gardner & Peterson Associates, Tolland, CT.
- Rich Zulick, Soil Scientist/Certified Forester, Ashford, CT.

**Documents presented at the meeting included:**

- Zulick, Rich. Richard Zulick Soil Scientist/Certified Forester, Ashford, CT, January 22, 2026, ***Soils and Wetland Report: 346 Stonehouse Road, Coventry, CT.***
- Improvement Location Survey, Subsurface Disposal Design Plan, Gardner & Peterson Associates, Revised 12/22/2025.

**Project Summary:**

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The Commission received an application from the acting agent at the December 2025 IWA Regular Meeting. M. Peterson stated the proposed project as a new construction two-family home. The home will be serviced by a public water supply from Stonehouse Road. The proposed improvements within the 75-foot upland review area (URA) include:

- Driveway,
- Septic tank/pump chamber, and
- Propane tank.

**Town Staff Comments:**

Lindsay Beutler, Coventry’s Environmental Planner/Wetlands Agent and Town Engineer Todd Penney stated the Applicant/Agent has addressed all outstanding concerns that Town had and no further concerns or comments were outstanding other than stating the implementation of the specified erosion & sediment controls during construction will be paramount.

**Commissioner Concerns/Comments:**

- Commissioners Glenney, Johnson, Pearson, and Wierszchalek had no further concerns or comments.
- Commissioner Mathieu inquired if the existing drainage swale was an active intermittent watercourse. R. Zulick, Wetland & Soil Scientist, referred to his submitted Report and confirmed based on his professional experience the existing drainage swale, comprised of its soil composition and topographical location, would only be active during storm and snow melt events and is not categorically defined as an intermitted watercourse.

**MOTION:** W. Johnson **MOVED** to **APPROVE** with standard conditions permit **WP-25-36 – 346 Stonehouse Road** – Owner: Daniel Fowler; Applicant: Titan Construction; Agent: Mark Peterson of Gardner and Peterson. – Proposed two family home within upland review area.

L. Mathieu **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 5:0:0**

<b>Yea</b>	Glenney, Mathieu, Johnson, Pearson, Wierszchalek
<b>Nay</b>	0
<b>Abstain</b>	0

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**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. WP-26-2 – 1047 Merrow Road** – Owners: Cheryl and Andy Engels; Applicant/ Agent: Eric Peterson. – As of Right application for construction of horse barn and manure storage and creation of two horse pastures.

**Representing the application was:**

- Mark Peterson, P.E., Agent, Gardner & Peterson Associates, Tolland, CT
- Cheryl & Andy Engles, Owners

**Present for legal consultation:**

- Slater, Kenneth, Esq. Halloran & Sage, LLP., Coventry Inland/Wetlands Attorney, via Zoom.

**Documents presented at the meeting included:**

- Zulick, Rich. Richard Zulick Soil Scientist/Certified Forester, Ashford, CT, January 22, 2026, **Soils and Wetland Report: 1047 Merrow Road, Coventry, CT.**
- Improvement Location Survey, Permit Plan, Gardner & Peterson Associates, 01/16/2026.
- Peterson, Mark, P.E. Gardner & Peterson Associates, LLC., Tolland, CT, January 28, 2026, **Project Narrative: 1047 Merrow Road, Coventry, CT.**
- Slater, Kenneth, Esq. Halloran & Sage, LLP., Coventry Inland/Wetlands Town Attorney, January 28, 2026, **Patriots Park Water Circulator Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Permit Application.**

Mark Peterson, P.E., Applicant/Agent, of Gardner and Peterson, LLC, Tolland, CT gave a high-level overview of the proposed application which he stated was before the IWA as an agricultural as-of-right permit for pasturing horses and associated activities such as installing a perimeter fence for a paddock and construction for a new barn within the upland review area and designated wetlands.

Rick Zulick, Soil Scientist & Certified Forester, Ashford, CT presented before the IWA a Soils and Wetland Report conducted of the subject property July 11, 2025, and concluded that water flows from north to south. There is an existing culvert located at the terminus of an existing gravel driveway and just prior to an existing paved driveway continues south to the existing home. The wetlands are located east of driveway where R. Zulick stated was an

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existing intermittent watercourse and corroborated with M. Peterson and the homeowners, the Engles, that the culvert was not observed to have an intermitted watercourse flowing through it but received low-flow water seepage.

M. Peterson proceeds to present the proposed erosion and sediment controls and waste management plans for the project.

Lindsay Beutler, Coventry Environmental Planner/Wetlands Agent presented to the IWA a memo written by Inland/Wetlands Attorney, Kenneth Slater, Esq., Halloran & Sage, LLP., from 2021 of a property located on Dunn Road of similar existing conditions and project proposal for comparable reference.

- Slater, Kenneth, Esq. Halloran & Sage, LLP., Coventry Inland/Wetlands Town Attorney, November 17, 2021, **Wetlands Act Agricultural Exemption Questions Re: 777 Dunn Road Application.**

L. Beutler stated that she asked Attorney Slater to stay on the call Asked Attorney Slater to remain present for the application for any additional potential questions from the IWA regarding agricultural as of right activity. She further stated that the application before the IWA was that of an agricultural as of right activity and met the criteria.

T. Penney, P.E. confirmed the proposed E&S control types and locations as well as inquired where the horses would range during the construction activity. Andy Engles, homeowner, stated the horses will reside in the northern part of the property. A gravel access path to the barn will be created off the existing driveway with selective clearing of small plant/shrub management is proposed for the pasture area. The barn's location is chosen based on topography and utility access considerations. The plan includes provisions for managing horse movement in and out of the barn with selective clear cutting intended along the proposed fence line.

Discussion ensued among the parties about the potential of using temporary fencing to manage horse access to wetland areas during wet seasonal conditions. Commissioner Mathieu asked Attorney Slater asked for legal clarification of agricultural as-of-right activities within the purview of IWA jurisdictional determination. Attorney Slater stated that the agricultural as-of-right activities heard before the IWA are not within their jurisdictional regulation:

- Horses walking and pasteurizing through a wetland.
- Temporary or permanent road construction directly associated with agricultural use.

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- Selective clear cutting for pasture fence installation.

**Commissioner Concerns/Comments:**

- Commissioners Glenney, Johnson, Pearson, and Wierszchalek had no further concerns or comments.

**MOTION:** W. Johnson **MOVED** to **APPROVE** permit **WP-26-2 – 1047 Merrow Road –** Owners: Cheryl and Andy Engels; Applicant/ Agent: Eric Peterson. –for construction of horse barn and manure storage and creation of two horse pastures **as an agricultural as-of-right activity.**

L. Mathieu **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 5:0:0**

<b>Yea</b>	Glenney, Mathieu, Johnson, Pearson, Wierszchalek
<b>Nay</b>	0
<b>Abstain</b>	0

**B. WP-26-3 – 129 Woodland Road –** Owner: Richard Lenhardt; Applicant/Agent: Andrew Bushnell. – Demo and rebuild of garage with no increase in footprint. (e)

**Representing the application was:**

- Andrew Bushnell, P.E., Agent, Andrew Bushnell & Associates, LLC, Manchester, CT, via Zoom.

**Proposed Project Summary:**

- To demolish and rebuild a garage with an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) with no increase in footprint.

**Town Staff Concerns/Comments:**

L. Beutler had no initial questions or comment. T. Penney asked A. Bushnell if the proposed foundation type was going to be a full or partial foundation. A. Bushnell stated that the foundation would be full and slightly above grade and proposed foundation drainage. Discussion ensued regarding minor disturbance in the regulated upland review area for sewer/water connections.

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### Commissioner Concerns/Comments:

- Commissioners Glenney, Pearson, and Wierszchalek had no further concerns or comments.
- Commissioners Johnson and Mathieu asked the Applicant/Agent about the proposed stockpile location and if a revegetation plan to mitigate nutrient runoff was considered post construction.

Bushnell stated that there would not be much of a stockpile and highlighted proposed E&S controls. He further stated there wasn't a revegetation plan considered post construction other than a fertilized lawn but would be open to revisit the conversation with the homeowners.

**C. WP-26-4 – 184 Avery Shores** – Owner/Applicant: Paul Guardino; Agent: Andrew Bushnell. – Demo and rebuild of house and garage in 150-ft upland review area.

### Representing the application was:

- Andrew Bushnell, P.E., Agent, Andrew Bushnell & Associates, LLC, Manchester, CT, via Zoom.
- Paul Guardino, Owner.

### Proposed Project Summary:

- This application was previously withdrawn in 2025, redesigned, and submitted for application acceptance before the IWA.
- To demolish an existing house and garage.
- Rebuild a new house with an attached garage and deck in the 150-ft upland review area.
- An overall proposed reduction in lot coverage from 27% to 20%.
- The home has been reoriented from the previous design to avoid encroachment into the side yard setbacks.
- The surrounding hardscape infrastructure on the east side of the property, garage and walkway, is proposed as permeable pavers.
- Water management controls include four (4) rain barrels and a footing drain around the foundation.
- The basement will be at/or existing grade, finished, with a first floor above.

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**Town Staff Concerns/Comments:**

L. Beutler stated she appreciates the reduction in lot coverage from the original application, as well as the use of permeable materials in place of impervious surfaces.

**Commissioner Concerns/Comments:**

- Commissioners Johnson and Pearson had no further concerns or comments.
- Commissioner Wierszchalek appreciated the reduction in lot coverage in the proposed design.
- Commissioner Glenney inquired what the existing concrete pad was along the west side of the property. P. Guardino, Owner stated the concrete pad was an existing feature of the property and enjoys its use.
- Commissioner Mathieu stated she is also appreciative of the reduction in lot coverage, proposed use of permeable pavers, and rain barrels. She further inquired with the homeowner if they would consider native vegetative buffers on their property to reduce pollutant loads and uptake nutrients to protect lake water quality. P. Guardino, Owner stated he was willing to consider it and not opposed to it.

**D. Election of Officers**

**MOTION:** S. Wierszchalek **MOVED** to **REELECT** William Glenney as Chairman of the Coventry Inland/Wetlands Agency for the next three (3) years, 2026-2029.

L. Mathieu **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:1**

<b>Yea</b>	Mathieu, Johnson, Pearson, Wierszchalek
<b>Nay</b>	0
<b>Abstain</b>	Glenney

**MOTION:** W. Johnson **MOVED** to **REELECT** Lori Mathieu as Vice Chairwoman of the Coventry Inland/Wetlands Agency for the next three (3) years, 2026-2029.

S. Wierszchalek **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:1**

<b>Yea</b>	Glenney, Johnson, Pearson, Wierszchalek
<b>Nay</b>	0
<b>Abstain</b>	Mathieu

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#### 6. ENFORCEMENT:

**A. 77 Tall Oak Drive** – Owner: David Frechette - Material Deposition in Regulated Area. Letter requesting site visit sent 6/21/24. Site visit to be conducted 7/22/2024. Cease and Desist verbally issued by IWA 7/29/24, mailed Certified Mail 8/1/2024. Referred to Town Attorney 7/23/2025. Stipulation agreement for temporary injunction signed by Judge 10/30/2025. *Phase 1 of restoration is complete. Trial date is set for 10/20/2026.*

- Executive Session planned for February 2026.
- **Trial date:** Set for October 2026 to resolve outstanding violations.
- **Status:** Phase one restoration complete; groundwater monitoring underway.
- **Findings:** Some test wells dry or with deep water; vernal pool area largely frozen.

#### Discussion:

L. Beutler stated she and T. Penney are conducting field visits, however there is not much to observe with the subject site largely covered by snow. They have begun groundwater monitoring via installed standpipes.

L. Beuter stated for contextual reference there is an existing Pickle Ball court (PB) north of the reconstructed vernal pool and standpipe monitors.

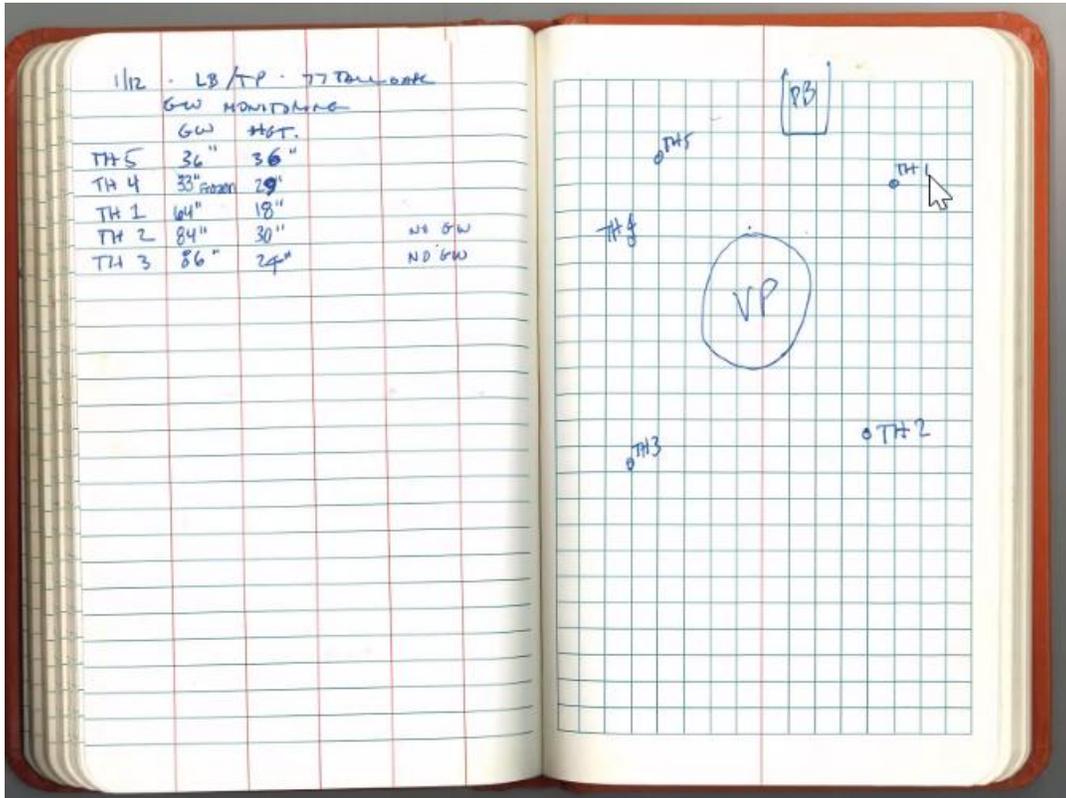
L. Beutler presented to the IWA her field notebook indicating the installed standpipe monitoring locations, numbered TH1-5 surround the reconstructed wetland (vernal pool), the sixth (TH6) standpipe is installed in the middle of the reconstructed vernal pool.

Standpipes, comprised of PVC tubing material, are installed below grade approximately 70 inches.

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L. Beutler stated that standpipes:

- Standpipes TH3 & TH2 were observed as completely dry (standpipes most southern of the vernal pool).
- Standpipe TH1 (northwesterly of the vernal pool) groundwater was present but at a very low subgrade.
- Standpipes TH4 & TH5, adjacent and northwesterly to the vernal pool, groundwater was observed as present and may be indicative to the presence of an emergent wetland. T. Penney went on to state that standpipe TH4 groundwater was observed as frozen, whereas TH5, south of an existing gravel driveway, was observed with flow.
- The area surrounding the vernal pool was observed as frozen due to flat topography of the subject site.
- Observational depth of groundwater was a maximum of 84" and as shallow as 36".

**Commissioner Concerns/Comments:**

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Commissioner W. Johnson asked Town Staff if there was any concern of localized flooding due to snowmelt and runoff. Is there a possibility of the reconstructed vernal pool to overflow? T. Penney stated that is one of the concerns of the homeowner, and that full restoration of the subject site is not complete with several additional phases pending. The main concern Penney stated was the viability of the vernal pool.

T. Penney summarized the previous existing conditions of the subject site, prior to the homeowner regrading and filling in the vernal pool, was sloped with erosive characteristics, whereas now the subject site is flat and there may be a need for some mechanical means of installing a pipe to handle some potential overflow, however it is too early in the reconstruction phase to determine.

Discussion further ensued among the Commissioners and Town Staff about potential regrading alleviating the flat topography after reconstruction.

L. Beutler stated that she conferred with consulting herpetologist Hank Gruner if overflowing of the vernal pool poses biological endangerment and he stated it would not.

Commissioners and Town Staff discussed historical aerial imagery, indicating there may have been a second wetland present or an entire wetland complex downgradient in the geographical area. Discussion topics further included the potential for wetlands to overflow and flood localized areas due to storm events. Phase 1 Restoration is discussed as complete with pending adjustments in the Spring 2026.

The discussion segued among Staff and Commissioners regarding the homeowners' concerns about potential flooding of the subject site from stormwater runoff from the local road upgradient. Staff stated that they were uncertain if that topic could become a contentious issue, however the focus is the viability of the vernal pool.

L. Beutler stated a meeting to discuss monitoring efforts will be scheduled soon between the Town, Consulting Herpetologist, Hank Gruner, the homeowner, David Frechette, and Frechette's Wetland Scientist, George Logan.

**7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

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**MOTION:** W. Johnson **MOVED** to **APPROVE** the Regular IWA Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2025, as amended. S. Wierszchalek **SECONDED**;

**Discussion:**

- Page 1 of 26, Agenda Item 4.A., WP-25-30 – 124 Lake Street Application. Coventry Town Manager James Drumm was in attendance and representing the application via Zoom.
- Page 7 of 26, Agenda Item 4.A. WP-25-30 – 124 Lake Street Application. Last paragraph, amend to include: “temporary” solution. S. Wierszchalek stated, “The water aerator (circulator) seemed to be the **temporary** solution.”

**MOTION CARRIED; 4:0:1**

<b>Yea</b>	Glenny, Johnson, Mathieu, Wierszchalek
<b>Nay</b>	0
<b>Abstain</b>	Pearson

**8. CORRESPONDENCE: Wetlands Quarter 4 Report**

Lindsay Beutler, Coventry Environmental Planner/Wetlands Agent presented the Wetlands Quarter 4 Report to the IWA. No concerns/comments from Commissioners.

**9. DISCUSSION:**

**A. Timber Harvests Permitting Flow Chart**

- Flowchart and training materials distributed for reference.
- The discussion included updates on timber harvest applications, regulatory frameworks, and best practices.
- The importance of understanding the relationship between timber harvesting and wetland regulations was emphasized.
- The need for proper planning and adherence to best management practices in timber harvesting was discussed.
- L. Beutler presented to the IWA a training presentation from Nick Zito, Forestry Division, CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, **CT Forest Practice Act Training**.

**\*Commissioner R. Pearson left the meeting at 9:02 PM\***

**B. IWA - Low Impact Development Working Group Update**

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**Documents presented at the meeting included:**

- Kortmann, Robert. **More Watershed Management is Needed at Coventry Lake, But Why?**
- Kortmann, Robert. **More Watershed Management, But How?** October 2025.
- Low-Impact Development Working Group. Town of Coventry, **Save the Date! Spring Workshop: Using Plants to Protect Our Water.**

Cite the documents in the packet.

Commissioner Mathieu passed out several other educational materials to the IWA.

**Low Impact Development Group Initiatives**

- The Low Impact Development (LID) group is working on watershed protection and management strategies.
- A presentation to the town council is scheduled for April 20, 2026 to discuss the group's progress and formally present a draft resolution and policy documents.
- Recommended regulations need to be presented and endorsed by the Coventry Town Council.
- Collaboration with local organizations and experts is being pursued to enhance water quality initiatives.
- The group aims to develop a Lake Smart program to educate property owners on best practices.
- The group aims to join the CT Federation of Lakes.
- The next LID Working Group meeting is February 10, 2026.

**Strategic Planning for Lake Management**

- The discussion revolves around the need for a comprehensive lake management plan as part of a broader strategic initiative. The current lake management plan is outdated.
- All the LID activity needs to be written into the updated lake management plan.
- The importance of involving the right stakeholders in the planning process is emphasized to avoid potential roadblocks.
- A well-structured management plan is deemed essential for the lake, which is a vital natural resource for the community.
- The example of Columbia's Lake Management task force is highlighted as a successful model for implementation and ongoing oversight.
- The formalization of a project task force or special project initiative was suggested.

**COVENTRY INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 7 PM

Town of Coventry, Town Hall Annex Building, 1712 Main Street Coventry, CT 06238  
& Zoom Teleconference

- Collaboration should occur with other existing Coventry Lake committees and boards (i.e, including but not limited to; Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee, Conservation Commission, etc.)

**Funding and Budgeting for Lake Initiatives**

- Discussion ensued as to where the town would get funding to update the lake management plan and project schedule.
- The importance of securing funds before the budget is finalized is stressed to ensure timely action.
- The need for a dedicated grant coordinator to seek funding opportunities is identified as crucial for project sustainability.
- A proposal for a budget is mentioned to support ongoing lake management activities.

**Existing Committee Challenges**

- Concerns are raised about the effectiveness and engagement of some existing committees, perceived to be at capacity, in managing lake-related issues.
- There is a suggestion to reach out to GZA GeoEnvironmental, engineering consulting firm, for a quote on developing a lake management plan, indicating a need for professional assistance.

**Importance of Community Engagement and Education**

- The need for a proactive educational approach to prevent future problems is emphasized, as well as the importance of clear communication with the community.
- Engaging Coventry residents and local stakeholders is essential for the success of any management plan.
- The potential economic impact of lake health on property values is discussed.

**10. ADJOURN:**

W. Johnson **MOVED** to **ADJOURN** at 9:42 PM. S. Wierszchalek **SECONDED; MOTION CARRIED;**  
**4:0:0**

The next regular scheduled meeting is: **February 25, 2026**

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Vassallo, Acting Recording Secretary

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for approval of these minutes and any corrections hereunto.