INLAND WETLANDS/CONSERVATION COMMISSION
EAST GRANBY, CONNECTICUT

MINUTES
Wednesday, November 5, 2025
Regular/Hybrid Meeting
Town Hall Meeting Room
7:00 pm

1. **CALL TO ORDER ~** 7:01 pm meeting called to order. Members present when Chairperson Jennifer Frank (via ZOOM) called the meeting to order were: Lisa Griffin, Kenneth Fersch, John Lipari, Jim Marquis & alternates John Erbland & Paula Saaf. Also present: Michael D'Amato from Tyche. Members absent: Colby Laviana & Joel Strong.

2. **MEMBER UPDATE**: Chairperson Frank shared that Ronald Hunt resigned, as he moved south. John Lipari has been appointed to replace him.

3. **MINUTES ~** Lisa Griffin made a motion to accept the August meeting minutes as written, John Lipari seconded the motion, votes in favor were all but Jim Marquis abstained, motion passed.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS** ~ N/A

5. **OLD BUSINESS** ~ Discussion as group ~ Open Space for POCD input; Maps of Open Space were shared with the commission; one map was from Traprock Land Conservancy with labeled parcels. Commission discussed how to go forward with Open Space considerations. In regard to Open Space, need to bear in mind that much of it is privately owned and that the town would need to approach land owners. Lisa Griffin suggested instead of focusing on specific properties, create a rubric to assess different parcels. Mike D'Amato stated other towns use a rubric/grading system to rate the value of different open spaces in town. He will share with the commission. Chairperson Frank would like to get the town planner Robin Newton's input on this at a future meeting. Discussion tabled till next meeting.

6. **NEW BUSINESS ~**

   A. **As of Right Determination for Selective Timber Harvest on Griffin Rd (MBL: 1-7 + 1-8)**; Lisa Griffin recused herself as this applies to her property. James Gillespie, worked in the 80's with this family harvesting timber on their farm, Mr. Gillespie addressed the questions Chairperson Frank had asked. He provided a detailed drawing of the site and plan of action regarding the area to be harvested. He explained how according to state statute this is an "as of right determination", not a permit application. Mr. Gillespie shared the details of how the timber is harvested, how the machines will move in the wetlands area and gave a detailed account of the timber harvesting process. He discussed in detail the machines that are used in this process. Mr. Gillespie felt that requesting a site visit or inspection is not customary, as this is not an application for a permit and the harvesting site is a dangerous area.

   Questions were open to the commission. Chairperson Jennifer Frank had concerns of trees left on the edges of the wetland border. Mr. Gillespie clarified how this is handled with minimal disturbance.

   Jim Marquis shared concerns of the machines' proximity to the wetlands. Mr. Gillespie foresees no issues as the machines don't dig into the surface or leave road tracks.

Chairperson Jennifer Frank made a motion that the commission members confirm that the proposed selective timber harvest is considered a farming activity under state statute and is exempt from the permitting process.

There was no disagreement with this statement by the commission members. Consensus was achieved.

B. Approve meeting dates for 2026; John Erbland made a motion to approve the meeting dates for 2026, John Lipari seconded the motion. Votes in favor were unanimous, motion passed.

7. **ADJOURNMENT** ~ 8:45 pm ~ Lisa Griffin made a motion to adjourn; Paula Saaf seconded the motion. Votes in favor were unanimous, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted on this 7th day of November 2025,
Michele Leadbeater
East Granby Building & Land Use Administrative Assistant