Agenda Tolland Inland Wetlands Commission

Council Chambers, 6th level, 21 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT 06084 Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Seating of Alternate(s)
- 3. Public Participation Issues of concern not on the Agenda (2 minute limit)
- 4. Additions/Changes to Agenda
- 5. New Business
 - 5.1 Show Cause Hearing to consider a Cease & Correct Order issued to the property owner of 12 Goose Lane (MBL 28/C/007) for the deposition of material/filling activities within the wetland and upland review area without a permit. *Continued from January 19*, 2023.
- 6. Old Business
- 7. Wetlands Agent Report
- 8. Other Business
 - 8.1 Informal Discussion Wetland Application for Pond Dredging.
- 9. Correspondence
 - 9.1 CAWS Annual Meeting.
 - 9.2 Coventry Planning and Zoning Commission Notice.
- 10. Approval of Minutes January 19, 2023 Regular Meeting
- 11. Adjournment

To join the Zoom Meeting, either click:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8608713602?pwd=cXZLNG9SWVlvNkNjZU9NYUxCd2xiUT09

One tap mobile: +16469313860,,8608713602#,,,,*06084#

Or call: 1-929-205-6099 and input:

Meeting ID: 860 871 3602

Passcode: 06084

Any party needing an accommodation contact the Planning & Development Department at (860) 871-3601 or via email @mdamato@tolland.org

The Town of Tolland is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.



Tolland Inland Wetlands Commission

January 11, 2023 Cease and Correct Order

12 Goose Lane

Supplemental Information







12/21/22



1/11/23



1/11/23



12/27/22





Town of Tolland, CT January 11, 2023

12 Goose Lane Photo Locations







MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT

Town of Tolland, CT makes no claims and no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the validity or accuracy of the GIS data presented on this map.

Geometry updated October 25, 2021 Data updated daily Print map scale is approximate. Critical layout or measurement activities should not be done using this resource.



TOWN of TOLLAND

Planning & Development Department 21 Tolland Green, Tolland, Connecticut 06084

Informal Warning

February 2, 2022

Certified Mail # 7014 2870 0001 5820 6894

SIMUL LLC Julius Gorog, Agent 149 Holly Hill Lane Greenwich, CT 06830

RE: Regulated Activities in Proximity to Wetlands

To Whom It May Concern,

It has come to the attention of this office that recently, property owned by you at 12 and 24 Goose Lane in Tolland, CT may have had activities occur which are regulated by the Tolland Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commission. As you are aware from previous communications from this office, any clearing, filling, grading, dumping or other activity in or within one-hundred (100) feet of a wetland or watercourse constitutes a regulated activity per the Tolland Inland Wetland and Watercourses Regulations Section 2.1 and must be obtain approval prior to such activity takes place.

Based on a field inspection, a review of available information and publicly available aerial photography it appears that areas to the East and South of the pond have been recently graded, filled or otherwise altered. The purpose of this communication is to inform you of the regulated areas on your properties and that all of these activities require approval.

While this is not a formal Notice of Violation, any new or continued activity in this area or, if additional field inspections determine that the extent of activity is more significant than original observed, the Town may take additional enforcement actions including but not limited to a Cease & Correct Order or the institution of fines as provided by the CT General Statutes and Tolland Ordinance #58. If you feel there may be a violation on these properties you are encouraged to reach out to our office immediately to develop a plan to bring the properties into compliance.

YOU ARE ADVISED: No activity should occur within 100ft of any regulated area, including the pond without prior approval from the Tolland Inland Wetlands Commission.

YOU ARE FURTHER ADVISED: This Notice has been issued to you under the Authority provided by the Connecticut General Statutes Section 22a-36 through 22a-45 and the Tolland Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Regulations.

Please contact me at your earliest convenience. Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michael D'Amato, AICP, CZEO Wetland Agent mdamato@tolland.org

860-871-3601

Historic Aerial Photos









TOWN of TOLLAND/ 21 Tolland Green, Tolland Connecticut 06084

Department of Planning & Development 860-871-3601

Via Certified Mail #70142870000158206177

SIMUL LLC c/o Julius Gorog (Agent) 148 Holly Hill Road Greenwich, CT 06830

Cease and Correct Order

Subject: 12 Goose Lane – Filling and Grading within Wetland and Upland Review Area

Dear Mr. Gorog,

On December 21, 2022, our office observed an unpermitted filling activity which has been and continues to be conducted on your property at 12 Goose Lane (28/C/007). Fill material, predominantly comprised of wood chips have been dumped and spread within the regulated wetland area. These activities have occurred without a permit and constitute a violation of Tolland Inland Wetland Regulations Section 6.1, which requires a permit to be obtained prior to any regulated activity from occurring. The requirement that such activities were subject to review by the Tolland Inland Wetlands Commission was further indicated to you in a letter dated 02/02/2022 which was delivered to you on 02/07/2022.

This Order has been issued in accordance with CT General Statutes Section 22a-44 and Section 14.4A of the Tolland Inland Wetland and Watercourses Regulations. You are hereby ordered to cease any further dumping, filling, grading or other site disturbing activities on your property. You are further ordered to take corrective actions by removing all non-native fill material located in a wetland or within the upland review area and to provide a Corrective Action Plan detailing all required corrective activities within 30 days of your receipt of this notice. In accordance with Section 14.4, the Inland Wetlands Commission will conduct a Show Cause Hearing on Thursday, January 19th at 7:00pm (see attached agenda) to provide you with the opportunity to be heard and demonstrate why this order should not remain in effect.

YOU ARE ADVISED: Failure to take the actions specified herein may necessitate further action on behalf of the Town of Tolland, including the assessment of fines per Appendix C (Ordinance 58) of the Inland Wetland Regulations.

Should you have any questions about the content of this Order, please contact the Planning & Development office in writing by mail or email at mdamato@tollandct.gov

Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated,

Michael D'Amato, AICP, CZEO

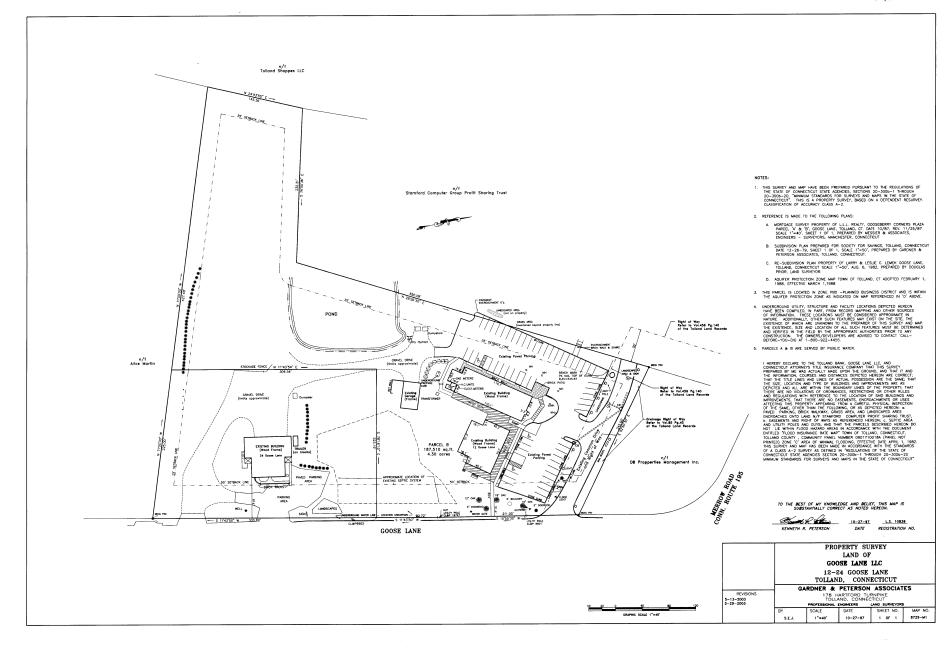
Inland Wetland Agent, Town of Tolland

Cc: David Corcoran, AICP, Director of Planning & Development

Richard Conti, Attorney, Town of Tolland

Enclosed: Site Photos, 01/19/23 Meeting Agenda, Official Wetland Map (excerpt)





CAWS 2023 Annual Meeting to offer a full day of engaging technical presentations

The Connecticut Association of Wetland Scientists (CAWS) will host a wetland science conference on Thursday, March 9 (8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). We welcome ecologists, designers, and other land use professionals, state and local officials, municipal commission members, and other interested parties to join us.

Location:

Eversource Energy Auditorium 107 Selden St, Berlin, CT 06037

Module topics will include:

- Invasive Aquatic Plants
- Regulatory Updates from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 Perspective from CT DEEP Fisheries
- Atlantic White Cedar Restoration
- Determining the Mechanisms Limiting Amphibian Distributions in Urban Areas
- Exemplary High School Natural Resources & Environmental Engineering Programs Wetland In-lieu Fee Program Updates
- And more!

See our lineup of workshops and presenters.

Plus: grant reports, vernal pool updates, and an exhibitor hall featuring displays by product and service suppliers and conservation organizations. CEUs (TBA) and Certificates of Completion will be provided.

Cost is \$85 for members and \$80 for non-members (students FREE with ID!), and includes continental breakfast, buffet lunch, and a CAWS hat!

Register online or download the paper registration form and mail back with your payment.

Join CAWS today and pay the member rate! Learn more about CAWS

Exhibitors welcome! Make an impression on more than 150 people involved in the study and management of wetlands and other conservation lands. Exhibitor tables are \$200 (\$35 for 50163 organizations and government agencies), and includes one registration.

Questions? Email us: info@ctwetlands.org

THANK YOU for your support of CAWS! Please forward this email to others who may be interested.



CT Association of Wetland Scientists info@ctwetlands.org

CAWS offers a \$1,500 Les Meinhoff Grant each year for on-the-ground preservation efforts or invasive control projects conducted by non-profit, community groups, or individuals directed at preserving plant biodiversity within Connecticut. The recipientlytoup need not be a member of CAWS in order to apply.

Similarly, the \$1,500 <u>Michael Lefor Grant</u> supports wetland-related research conducted by a qualified undergraduate or graduate student from an accredited college or university in Connecticut.

Both applications are open year round with a February 23 deadline. Please spread the word.

Notice of Certain

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DATE: FO:	$\frac{2}{7} \frac{1}{20}$ Town Clerks of:	23 Tollano	N	
FROM:	Planning and/or 2 Commission Town of	Zoning	□ Ø	Zoning Board of Appeals Inland Wetland Commission

Pursuant to P.A. 87-307 which requires zoning, planning, and inland wetland commissions and zoning boards of appeals to notify the clerk of any adjoining municipality of the pendency of an application, petition, request, or plan concerning any project on any site in which:

- 1) Any portion of the property affected by a decision of such board is within five hundred feet of the boundary of the adjoining municipality;
- 2) A significant portion of the traffic to the completed project on the site will use streets within the adjoining municipality to enter or exit the site;
- 3) A significant portion of the sewer or water drainage from the project on site will flow through and significantly impact the drainage or sewerage system within the adjoining municipality; or
- 4) Water run-off from the improved site will impact streets or other municipal or private property within the adjoining municipality.

Notice is to be made by registered mail and mailed within seven days of the date of receipt of the application, petition, request, or plan.

No hearing may be conducted unless the adjoining municipality has received notice required by P.A. 87-307. A representative may appear and be heard at any such hearing.

This letter is to inform you of the pendency of such a project described as follows:

Description of application Construct a 16' x12' parto. The clossst	pool house, 18' × 41' pool (aground), 62'x 42' concrete point to wetlands is 40 feet.
Mट्ट्निज Scheduled hearin g:	Date: February 22 2023 Time: 7:00 pm Via zoom + in person Place: Town Hall Annex 17/2 Main St.

Tolland Inland Wetlands Commission

Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Council Chambers, 6th level, 21 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT 06084 Remote - Zoom Thursday, January 19, 2023

Members Present: Raymond Culver, Chairman (in person)

Archie Tanner, Regular (remote) Bob Ross, Regular (in person) Gary Hoehne, Regular (in person)

Members Absent: Todd Penney, Vice Chairman

Others present: Michael D'Amato, interim Wetlands Agent (in person)

George Hill, attorney for 12 Goose Lane Julius Gorog, property owner 12 Goose Lane Kevin Martin, abutter to 12 Goose Lane

1. Call to Order

Meeting recording started. Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm.

- 2. **Seating of Alternate(s)** none
- 3. Additions/Changes/Deletions to Agenda none
- **4.** Public Participation issues of concern not on the agenda (2-minute limit) none
- 5. New Business
 - 5.1 IWC 18-1, 131 Tolland Stage Road Extension—Applicant: Couzens Centre II, LLC.

D'Amato said the statutes have changed for certain land use approvals and upon request of the permit holder, the Commission must extend the permit unless there are extenuating circumstances or a significant change to the scope of work. D'Amato said the permit holder is requesting a 5-year extension on a permit that was previously issued in 2018. D'Amato said the permit holder is only requesting an extension without any modifications.

Ross/Hoehne: Motion: extend Inlands Wetlands Commission 18-1, 131 Tolland Stage Road permit an additional 5 years.

Unanimously approved

Culver - Y, Ross - Y, Tanner - Y, Hoehne - Y

5.2 Show Cause Hearing to consider a Cease & Correct Order issued to the property owner of 12 Goose Lane (MBL 28/C/007) for the deposition of material/filling activities within the wetland and upland review area without a permit.

D'Amato reviewed the information provided to the Commissioners in the meeting packet. D'Amato reviewed all of the photos including the dates the photos were taken, the vantage points from which the photos were taken and the areas of concern. D'Amato said abutters have contacted the Town Staff asking questions and registering complaints and voicing concerns. D'Amato said he sent an informal warning letter in February 2022 which

outlined the Town's concerns following a field inspection. The letter also explains what types of activities would require a permit and that there are regulated areas on the property.

D'Amato referred to the next document which is the formal Cease and Correct Order which was sent on January 11, 2023. D'Amato said the letter outlines that a Show Cause Hearing would need to held within 10 days of issuance, which coincides with the Inlands Wetlands Commission meeting of today's date. D'Amato added that the Cease and Correct order includes information outlining the only work that can be done on the site while this order is in effect. This includes: "cease any further dumping, filling and grading or other site disturbing activities on your property.....taking corrective actions by removing all non-native material located in a wetland or upland review area and to provide a corrective action plan detailing all required corrective activities within 30 days of your receipt of this notice".

D'Amato explained to the Commissioners that this time, the Commission has the option to uphold, overturn or modify the Cease and Correct order.

Hill introduced himself as a representative for J. Gorog. Hill said, in his opinion, there is no wetlands on the property, just the pond and watercourse. D'Amato said based on the review of the site there were wetlands on the property may have been filled. Hill said Gorog had an opportunity to get a large amount of woodchips and Gorog has placed them on his property with the intention to develop his property for agriculture. Hill said Gorog has stayed 100 feet from the pond and more than 50 feet from the wetlands. Hill said there was no intent to avoid Inlands Wetlands Commission regulations.

Culver said there is a 100-foot buffer which should have been maintained from the pond edge. Culver added that he is concerned that there are wetlands on the property and requires formal delineation to make a determination. Gorog said the pond is not natural, it was created by the previous property owner in 1986. Culver said the wetlands has been established over the past 40 years. Hill said Gorog is willing to work with the Town to make corrections.

D'Amato said there is also a stream on the property and there has been unpermitted activity in this area as well. D'Amato also indicated that if a property owner wants to complete work "as-of-right" the Inlands Wetlands Commission would need to be consulted and a determination regarding "as-of-right" would need to be made by the Commission and the Commission would need to approve the activity.

D'Amato said a permit allows activity but does not compel anyone to do anything and that a Cease and Correct Order compels action. D'Amato said this property and this type of activity had been discussed 2017-2018. It was explained at that time, what types of activities require a permit to protect wetlands and watercourses.

Culver said if a permit was applied for, the Commission would have required a formal wetlands delineation by a soil scientist. Ross said based on previous discussions in 2017/2018 the necessity of permit should have been known. Hall said he was acting on guidance previously provided. Hall said taking action based on the maps provided on the website should be allowed. D'Amato referenced the disclaimer on the maps website, which includes:

"The data available here is updated in the normal course of business and may not always represent the most current information. In addition, some of the data contained herein may have been compiled from third-party sources and the accuracy of that information cannot be confirmed.

The Town and AppGeo, respectively, do not make any warranty, representation, or guarantee as to the content, sequence, accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of any of the information provide herein. The user should not rely on the data provided herein without verifying its accuracy independently. The Town and AppGeo, respectively, explicitly disclaim any representations and warranties including, without limitation, the implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.

The Town and AppGeo, respectively, shall assume no liability for any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in the information provided regardless of how caused and for any decision made or action taken or not taken by the user in reliance upon any information of data furnished hereunder.

If you identify any data problems, please use the "Feedback" function to notify the Town and AppGeo.

By using this site, you agree to MapGeo's Privacy Policy and Terms of Service."

D'Amato reviewed the regulations which apply to this situation and property which includes a pond, wetlands and a watercourse on the property. Hall said he and Gorog believe that the woodchips are 100 feet from any regulated area. Hoehne asked if there any woodchips near the delineated wetlands at 200 Merrow Road.

Culver asked D'Amato if he believed the woodchips are 100 feet from the wetlands. D'Amato said the action is unpermitted fill and that there is no information to determine what the native materials are.

Culver asked how much fill has been brought into the property. Gorog said he is not sure. Culver said this Commission's concern is protection of the wetlands and that if a property owner wants to bring fill on to a property that contains regulated areas, the Commission would want the property owner to obtain a permit. He said it is difficult to determine the limits of the wetlands due to the amount of fill that has been deposited.

Hill said Gorog is not trying to avoid following the rules. Culver said this Commission protects wetlands and watercourses and that the Commission needs to know where the limits of the wetlands area. D'Amato said a soil scientist would need to delineate the wetlands. Culver reviewed the cease and Correct order. Hall asked if Gorog had requested a permit, would the Commissioners have required a soil scientist to complete a delineation. All Commissioners agreed that a wetlands delineation would be required as part of the permitting process.

D'Amato reviewed the relevant minutes from previous enforcement concerns. Culver said based on the reviewed minutes, the current activities would require a permit. Tanner said there was material placed in a regulated area. He believes the cease and correct order should remain in place.

D'Amato said there could be negotiation to facilitate corrective action. He said the Commission could keep the cease and correct order open until the next meeting if the Commission does not have enough information, for example to receive the wetlands delineation. Culver asked if he would be also need a permit to complete the cease and correct action items. D'Amato said no, that the Cease and Correct order would cover the required correction.

Commissioners discussed a condition that Gorog has 30 days to get the site delineated by a certified soil scientist and then another 30 days to develop a corrective action plan. D'Amato said if the action remains open there could still be negotiation. Ross suggested that the Order should remain in effect, that the property should be delineated and wetlands identified by a certified soil scientist and a plan should be developed within 30 days. Ross added that the amount of fill on the property is significant. Hoehne agreed activity should cease and wetlands should be delineated prior to the next Inlands Wetlands Commission meeting.

Culver asked the process to keep the order open. D'Amato said the Commissioners would have to make a motion to keep this proceeding open. Commissioners agreed that prior to the next meeting, the wetlands need to be delineated by a certified soil scientist down to native soils and that the property owner should have a preliminary plan for remediation and correction prepared and ready to be discussed at the February 16, 2023 meeting.

Ross/Hoehne: Motion to continue until February 16, 2023 Inlands Wetlands Commission meeting with the expectation that the wetlands need to be delineated by a certified soil scientist down to native soils and that the property owner should have a preliminary plan for remediation and correction prepared and ready to be discussed at the February 16, 2023 meeting.

Unanimously approved.

6. Old Business

D'Amato said he is working on standing items and expects to have materials to discuss at the February 16, 2023 meeting

- 7. Wetlands Agent Report none
- 8. Other Business none
- 9. Correspondence
 - 9.1 Connecticut Bar Association Education and Training.

D'Amato said the training will be in March and will be virtual. Information is in the electronic packet. D'Amato said if anyone is interested, please let him know and Town staff could enroll interested members.

9.2 Solitude Lake Management Permit Application to DEEP

D'Amato said he received correspondence from the State regarding a state issued permit for the use of pesticides in State waters. D'Amato said this notification is required whenever a pesticide is going to be used in a State pond/watercourse. DEEP said Solitude Lake Management will be applying pesticide to Whitehouse Pond in Tolland.

10. Approval of Minutes - December 15, 2022 Regular Meeting

Ross/Hoehne: Motion to approve the minutes from December 15, 2022 minutes as presented.

Unanimously approved.

11. Adjourn

Ross/Hoehne: motion to adjourn.

Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

June Kausch

They Ronard

Clerk, Inland Wetlands Commission