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## **TOWN OF COLUMBIA**

# **INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSE**

## **REGULATIONS**

**REVISED: 6/03/08**

**EFFECTIVE: 7/01/08**

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## **Section 1**

### **Title and Authority**

1.1 The inland wetlands and watercourses of the State of Connecticut are an indispensable and irreplaceable but fragile natural resource with which the citizens of the state have been endowed. The wetlands and watercourses are an interrelated web of nature essential to an adequate supply of surface and underground water to hydrological stability and control of flooding and erosion; to the recharging and purification of groundwater; and to the existence of many forms of animal, aquatic and plant life. Many inland wetlands and watercourses have been destroyed or are in danger of destruction because of unregulated use by reason of the deposition, filling, or removal of material, the diversion or obstruction of water flow, the erection of structures and other uses, all of which have despoiled, polluted and eliminated wetlands and watercourses. Such unregulated activity has had, and will continue to have, a significant, adverse impact on the environment and ecology of the state of Connecticut and has and will continue to imperil the quality of the environment thus adversely affecting the ecological, scenic, historic and recreational values and benefits of the state for its citizens now and forever more. The preservation and protection of the wetlands and watercourses from random, unnecessary, undesirable and unregulated uses, disturbance or destruction is in the public interest and is essential to the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of the state. It is, therefore, the purpose of these regulations to protect the citizens of the state by making provisions for the protection, preservation, maintenance and use of the inland wetlands and watercourses by minimizing their disturbance and pollution; maintaining and improving water quality in accordance with the highest standards set by federal, state or local authority; preventing damage from erosion, turbidity or siltation; preventing loss of fish and other beneficial aquatic organisms, wildlife and vegetation and the destruction of the natural habitats thereof; deterring, and inhibiting the danger of flood and pollution; protecting the quality of wetlands and watercourses for their conservation, economic, aesthetic, recreational and other

public and private uses and values; and protecting the state's potable fresh water supplies from the dangers of drought, overdraft, pollution, misuse and mismanagement by providing an orderly process to balance the need for the economic growth of the State and the use of its land with the need to protect its environment and ecology in order to forever guarantee to the people of the state the safety of such natural resources for their benefit and enjoyment and for the benefit and enjoyment of generations yet unborn.

1.2 These regulations shall be known as the "Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Columbia."

1.3 The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission of the Town of Columbia was established in accordance with an ordinance adopted April 11, 1985 and shall implement the purposes and provisions of these regulations and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act in the Town of Columbia.

1.4 These regulations have been adopted and may be amended from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act and these regulations.

1.5 The Commission shall enforce the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act and shall issue, issue with terms, conditions, limitations or modifications, or deny permits for all regulated activities in the Town of Columbia pursuant to sections 22a-36 to 22a-45, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

1.6 Areas of special concern in the Town of Columbia:

**1.6A. WETLANDS OF SPECIAL CONCERN;** Any wetlands identified in this subsection 1.6A of these regulations except it shall exclude wetlands on any lot of record less than 4 acres in size that existed prior to the promulgation of these regulations. The wetlands of special concern for the purpose of this section are the wetlands identified in the Ct Ecosystems Study 2000 and shown on plan dated 2000 Rev. January 1, 2008. Specifically, the wetlands identified are Wetland identification numbers C11, C12, H12, G30, H13, M3, M6, M7, M9, T3, T6, T12, & W3.

**1.6B. WATERCOURSES OF CONCERN;**

**1.6B1- COLUMBIA LAKE**

**1.6B2- MONO POND**

**1.6B3- COLUMBIA LAKE BROOK**

**1.6B4- CLARKS BROOK**

**1.6B5- GIFFORDS BROOK**

**1.6B6- HOP RIVER**

**1.6B7- MACHT BROOK**

**1.6B8- TEN MILE RIVER**

**1.6B9- MINT BROOK**

**1.6B10- UTLEY BROOK**

**1.6B11- DAM BROOK**

## **Section 2**

### **Definitions**

#### **As used in these regulations:**

**2.1** “Act” means the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act, sections 22a-36 through 22a-45, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

**2.2** “Agency” means the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission of the Town of Columbia.

**2.3** “Bogs” are watercourses distinguished by evergreen, trees and shrubs underlain by peat deposits, poor or very poor drainage, and highly acidic conditions.

**2.4** “Clear-cutting” means the harvest of timber in a fashion which substantially removes all trees greater than a two inch diameter at breast height.

**2.5** “Commissioner of Environmental Protection” means the commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

**2.6** “Continual flow” means a flow of water which persists for an extended period of time; this flow may be interrupted during periods of drought or during the low flow period of the annual hydrological cycle, June through September, but it recurs in prolonged succession.

**2.7** “Deposit” includes, but shall not be limited to fill, grade, dump, place, discharge or emit.

**2.8** “Discharged means emission of any water, substance, or material into waters of the state whether or not such substance causes pollution.

**2.9** “Essential to the farming operation” means that the proposed activity is necessary and indispensable to sustain farming activities on the farm.

**2.10** “Farming” shall be consistent with the definition as noted in section 1-1(q) of the Connecticut General Statutes. (See Appendix A)

**2.11** “Feasible” means able to be constructed or implemented consistent with sound engineering principles.

**2.12** “License” means the whole or any part of any permit, certificate of approval or similar form of permission which may be required of any person by the provisions of sections 22a-36 to 22a- 45, inclusive.

**2.13** “Management practice” means a practice, procedure, activity, structure or facility designed to prevent or minimize pollution or other environmental damage or to maintain or enhance existing environmental quality. Such management practices include, but are not limited to: erosion and sedimentation controls; restrictions on land use or development; construction setbacks from wetlands or watercourses; proper disposal of waste materials; procedures for equipment maintenance to prevent fuel spillage; construction methods to prevent flooding or disturbance of wetlands and watercourses; procedures for maintaining continuous stream flows; confining construction that must take place in watercourses to times when water flows are low and fish and wildlife will not be adversely affected.

**2.14** “Marshes” are watercourses that are distinguished by the absence of trees and shrubs and the dominance of soft-stemmed herbaceous plants. The water table in marshes is at or above the ground surface throughout the year and areas of open water six inches or more in depth are common, but seasonal water table fluctuations are encountered.

**2.15** “Material” means any substance, solid or liquid, organic or inorganic, including but not limited to soil, sediment, aggregate, land, gravel, clay, bog, mud, debris, sand, refuse or waste.

**2.16** “Municipality” means the Town of Columbia

**2.17** “Nurseries” means places where plants are grown for sale, transplanting, or experimentation.

**2.18** “Permit” see license

**2.19** “Permittee” means the person to whom a license has been issued.

**2.2** “Person” means any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, limited liability company, company, organization or legal entity of any kind, including municipal corporations, governmental agencies or subdivisions thereof.

**2.21** “Pollution” means harmful thermal effect or the contamination or rendering unclean or impure of any waters of the state by reason of any waste or other materials discharged or deposited therein by any public or private sewer or otherwise so as directly or indirectly to come in contact with any waters. This includes, but is not limited to, erosion and



sedimentation resulting from any filling, land clearing or excavation activity.

**2.22** “Prudent” means economically and otherwise reasonable in light of the social benefits to be derived from the proposed regulated activity provided cost may be considered in deciding what is prudent and further provided a mere showing of expense will not necessarily mean an alternative is imprudent.

**2.23** “Regulated activity” means any operation within or use of a wetland or watercourse involving removal or deposition of material, or any obstruction, construction, alteration or pollution, of such wetlands or watercourses, but shall not include the specified activities in section 4 of these regulations. Furthermore any clearing, grubbing, filling, grading, paving, excavating, constructing, construction of a patio, depositing, or removing of material and discharging of storm water on the land within the following upland review areas is a regulated activity:

- a. Within 200 feet measured horizontally from the ordinary high water mark of a lake, pond, river, stream, a brook or from a wetland soil in those areas identified as areas of special concern in the Town of Columbia in section 1.6 of the commissions regulations.
- b. Within 100 feet measured horizontally from the boundary of any other wetland or watercourse. The Commission may rule that any other activity located within such upland review area or in any other non-wetland or non-watercourse area is likely to impact or affect wetlands or watercourses and is a regulated activity.
- c. The Upland Review Area shall be increased to 200 feet if the slope is greater than 20%.

**2.24** “Remove” includes, but shall not be limited to drain, excavate, mine, dig, dredge, suck, bulldoze, dragline or blast.

**2.25** “Rendering unclean or impure” means any alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of any waters of the state, including, but not limited to, change in odor, color, turbidity or taste.

**2.26** “Significant impact” means any activity, including, but not limited to, the following activities which may have a major effect:

- a. Any activity involving deposition or removal of material which will or may have a substantial effect on the wetland or watercourse or on wetlands or watercourses outside the area for which the activity is proposed.
- b. Any activity which substantially changes the natural channel or may inhibit the natural dynamics of a watercourse system.
- c. Any activity which substantially diminishes the natural capacity of an inland wetland or watercourse to: support aquatic, plant or animal life and habitats; prevent flooding; supply water; assimilate waste; facilitate drainage; provide recreation or open space; or perform other functions.
- d. Any activity which is likely to cause or has the potential to cause substantial turbidity, siltation or sedimentation in a wetland or watercourse.
- e. Any activity which causes substantial diminution of flow of a natural watercourse or groundwater levels of the wetland or watercourse.
- f. Any activity which is likely to cause or has the potential to cause pollution of a wetland or watercourse.
- g. Any activity which damages or destroys unique wetland or watercourse areas or such areas having demonstrable scientific or educational value.

**2.27** “Soil scientist” means an individual duly qualified in accordance with standards set by the Federal Office of Personnel Management.

**2.28** “Swamps” are watercourses that are distinguished by the dominance of wetland trees and shrubs.

**2.29** “Submerged lands” means those lands which are inundated by water on a seasonal or more frequent basis.

**2.30** “Town” means the Town of Columbia.

**2.31** “Waste” means sewage or any substance, liquid, gaseous, solid or radioactive, which may pollute or tend to pollute any of the wetlands and watercourses of the Town.

**2.32** “Watercourses” means rivers, streams, brooks, waterways, lakes, ponds, marshes, swamps, bogs, and all other bodies, of water, natural or

artificial, vernal or intermittent, public or private, which are contained within, flow through or border upon the Town or any portion thereof not regulated pursuant to sections 22a-28 through 22a-35, inclusive of the Connecticut General Statutes. Intermittent watercourses shall be delineated by a defined permanent channel and bank and the occurrence of two or more of the following characteristics: (a) evidence of scour or deposits of recent alluvium or detritus, (b) the presence of standing or flowing water for any duration longer than a particular storm incident, and (c) the presence of hydrophytic vegetation.

**2.33** “Wetlands” means land, including submerged land as defined in this section, not regulated pursuant to sections 22a-28 through 22a-35, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, which consists of any of the soil types designated as poorly drained, very poorly drained, alluvial and floodplain by the National Cooperative Soils Survey, as it may be amended from time, to time, of the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Such areas may include filled, graded, or excavated sites which possess an aguic (saturated) soil moisture regime as defined by the USDA Cooperative Soil Survey.

**Section 3**  
**Inventory of Inland Wetlands and Watercourses**

3.1 The map of wetlands and watercourses entitled “Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Map of Columbia, Connecticut” delineates the general location and boundaries of inland wetlands and the general location of watercourses. Copies of this map are available for inspection at the office of the Town Clerk or the Commission. In all cases, the precise location of wetlands and watercourses shall be determined by the actual character of the land, the distribution of wetland soil types and location of watercourses. The Commission may use aerial photography, remote sensing imagery, resource mapping, soils maps, site inspection observations or other information in determining the location of the boundaries of wetlands and watercourses.

3.2 Any person may petition the Commission for an amendment to the map. All petitions for a map change shall be submitted in writing and shall include all relevant facts and circumstances which support the change. The petitioner shall bear the burden of proof regarding the proposed map amendment. Such proof may include, but not be limited to aerial photography, remote sensing, imagery resource mapping or other available information. The Commission may require such person to provide an accurate delineation of regulated areas in accordance with section 15 of these regulations.

3.3 The Commission shall maintain a current inventory of regulated areas within the town. The Commission may amend its map as more accurate information becomes available.

3.4 All map amendments are subject to the public hearing process outlined in section 15 of these regulations.

## Section 4

### Permitted Uses as of Right & Non-regulated Uses

4.1 The following operations and uses shall be permitted in inland wetlands and watercourses, as of right:

a. Grazing, farming, nurseries, gardening and harvesting of crops and farm ponds of three acres or less, essential to the farming operation, and activities conducted by, or under the authority of, the Department of Environmental Protection for the purposes of wetland or watercourse restoration or enhancement or mosquito control. The provisions of this subdivision shall not be construed to include road construction or the erection of buildings not directly related to the farming operation, relocation of watercourses with continual flow, filling or reclamation of wetlands or watercourses with continual flow, clear cutting of timber except for the expansion of agricultural crop land, the mining of top soil, peat, sand, gravel or similar material from wetlands or watercourses for the purposes of sale;

b. A residential home (i) for which a building permit has been issued or (ii) on a subdivision lot, provided the permit has been issued or the subdivision has been approved by a municipal planning, zoning or planning and zoning commission as of the effective date of promulgation of the municipal regulations pursuant to subsection (b) of section 22a-42a, or as of July 1, 1974, which ever is earlier, and further provided no residential home shall be permitted as of right pursuant to this subdivision unless the permit was obtained on or before July 1, 1987;

c. Boat anchorage or mooring;

d. Uses incidental to the enjoyment and maintenance of residential property, such property defined, as equal to or smaller than the largest minimum residential lot site permitted anywhere in the municipality provided that in any town where there are no zoning regulations establishing minimum residential lot sites, the largest minimum lot site shall be two acres. Such incidental uses shall include maintenance of existing structures and landscaping, but shall not include removal or deposition of significant amounts of material from or onto a wetland or

watercourse, or diversion or alteration of a watercourse;

e. Construction and operation by water companies as defined by section 16-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes or by municipal water supply systems as provided for in chapter 102 of the Connecticut General Statutes, of dams, reservoirs and other facilities necessary to the impounding, storage and withdrawal of water in connection with public water supplies except as provided in sections 22a-401 and 22a-403 of the Connecticut General Statutes and;

f. Maintenance relating to any drainage pipe which existed before the effective date of any municipal regulations adopted pursuant to section 22a-42a of the Connecticut General Statutes or July 1, 1974, whichever is earlier, provided such pipe is on property which is zoned as residential but which does not contain hydrophytic vegetation. For purposes of this subdivision, "maintenance" means the removal of accumulated leaves, soil, and other debris whether by hand or machine, while the pipe remains in place.

4.2 The following operations and uses shall be permitted, as non-regulated uses in wetlands and watercourses, provided they do not disturb the natural and indigenous character of the wetland or watercourse by removal or deposition of material, alteration or obstruction of water flow or pollution of the wetland or watercourse:

a. Conservation of soil, vegetation, water, fish, shellfish and wildlife; and

b. Outdoor recreation including play and sporting areas, golf courses, field trials, nature study, hiking, horseback riding, swimming, skin diving, camping, boating, water skiing, trapping, hunting, fishing and shell fishing where otherwise legally permitted and regulated.

4.3 All activities in wetlands or watercourses involving filling, excavating, dredging, clear cutting, clearing, or grading or any other alteration or use of a wetland or watercourse not specifically permitted by this section and otherwise defined as a regulated activity by these regulations shall require a permit from the Commission in accordance with section 6 of these regulations, or for certain regulated activities located outside of wetlands and watercourses from the duly authorized agent in accordance with section 12 of these regulations.

4.4 To carry out the purposes of this section, any person proposing a permitted operation and use or a non-regulated operation and use shall, prior to commencement of such operation and use, notify the Commission on a form provided by it, and provide the Commission with sufficient information to enable it to properly determine that the proposed operation and use is a permitted or non-regulated use of a wetland or watercourse. The Commission shall rule that the proposed operation and use or portion of it is a permitted or non-regulated operation and use or that the proposed operation and use is a regulated activity and a permit is required.

**Section 5**  
**Activities Regulated Exclusively by the Commissioner of**  
**Environmental Protection**

5.1 The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall have exclusive jurisdiction over regulated activities in or affecting wetlands or watercourses, undertaken by any department, commission or instrumentality of the State of Connecticut, except any local or regional board of education, pursuant to sections 22a-39 or 22a-45a of the Connecticut General Statutes.

5.2 The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall have exclusive jurisdiction over tidal wetlands designated and regulated pursuant to sections 22a-28 through 22a-35 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

5.3 The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall have exclusive jurisdiction over activities authorized under a dam repair, or removal order issued by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection under section 22a-402 of the Connecticut General Statutes or a permit issued by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection under sections 22a-403 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Any person receiving such dam repair or removal order or permit shall not be required to obtain a permit from a municipal wetlands commission for any action necessary to comply with said dam order or to carry out the activities authorized by said permit.

5.4 The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the discharge of fill or dredged materials into the wetlands and watercourses of the state pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended, for activities regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act.



**Section 6**  
**Regulated Activities to be Licensed**

6.1 No person shall conduct or maintain a regulated activity without first obtaining a permit for such activity from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission of the Town of Columbia.

6.2 Any person found to be conducting or maintaining a regulated activity without the prior authorization of the Commission, or violating any other provision of these regulations, shall be subject to the enforcement proceedings and penalties prescribed in section 14 of these regulations and any other remedies as provided by law.

6.3 The Commission shall regulate any operation within or use of a wetland, watercourse, or upland review area, involving removal or deposition of materials, or any obstruction, construction, alteration or pollution, of such wetlands or watercourses and any other regulated activity, unless such operation or use is permitted or non-regulated pursuant to section 4 of these regulations.

6.4 The Commission shall regulate any operation outside of an upland review area upon its determination that the proposed activity may disturb the natural and indigenous character of any wetlands or watercourse.

## **Section 7**

### **Application Requirements**

7.1 Any person intending to conduct a regulated activity or to renew or amend a permit to conduct such activity, shall apply for a permit on form provided by the Commission. The application shall contain the information described in this section and any other information the Commission may reasonably require. Application forms may be obtained in the offices of the Town Clerk or the Commission.

7.2 If an application to the Town of Columbia Planning, Zoning, or Planning and Zoning Commission for subdivision or re-subdivision of land involves land containing a wetland or watercourse, the applicant shall, in accordance with Section 8-3(g), 8-3c, or 8-26, as applicable, of the Connecticut General Statutes, submit an application for a permit to the Commission in accordance with this section, no later than the day the application is filed with such planning, zoning, or planning and zoning commission.

7.3 If a regulated activity is located in the Columbia Lake Watershed, a completed copy of the Nutrient Allocation Land Use Worksheet (sheet 1 Nutrient Allocation – Land Use Worksheet Revised January 1 2008 ) will be required, as part of the application submittal. (See Appendix C for more information) If the proposed activity is an activity requiring a nutrient allocation worksheet under Section 21.4 of the Zoning regulations, the submittal to wetlands shall also include a sign off or comments from the Zoning Agent, prior to the commission taking any action on the application. The Commission will evaluate the information on this worksheet as part of their review of the overall proposed management practices, mitigation measures and erosion and sedimentation controls which may be considered as a condition of issuing a permit. The Commission will not base its decision solely on the applicant's ability to either comply or not comply with the measures to limit the nutrient loading as per Section 21.4 of the Zoning Regulations. The Commission will make its determination based on the criteria set forth in Section 10 of its regulations and other relevant information.

7.4 The application shall contain such information as is necessary for a fair and informed determination thereon by the Commission.

7.5 A prospective applicant may request the Commission to determine whether or not a proposed activity involves a significant impact activity.

7.6 All applications shall include the following information in writing or on maps or drawings:

- a. The applicant's name, home and business mailing addresses and telephone numbers; if the applicant is a Limited Liability Corporation or a Corporation the managing member's or responsible corporate officer's name, address, and telephone number;
- b. The owner's name, mailing address and telephone number and written consent of the land owner if the applicant is not the owner of the land upon which the subject activity is proposed;
- c. The applicant's interest in the land;
- d. The geographical location of the land which is the subject of the proposed activity and a description of the land in sufficient detail, to allow identification of the inland wetlands and watercourses, the area(s) (in acres or square feet) of wetlands or watercourses to be disturbed, soil type(s), and wetland vegetation;
- e. The purpose and a description of the proposed activity and proposed erosion and sedimentation controls and other management practices and mitigation measures which may be considered as a condition of issuing a permit for the proposed regulated activity including, but not limited to, measures to (1) prevent or minimize pollution or other environmental damage, (2) maintain or enhance existing environmental quality, or (3) in the following order of priority: restore, enhance and create productive wetland or watercourse resources;
- f. Alternative which would cause less or no environmental impact to wetlands or watercourses and why the alternative as set forth in the application was chosen; all such alternatives shall be diagramed on a site plan or drawing;
- g. A site plan showing the proposed activity and existing and proposed conditions in relation to wetlands and watercourses and identifying any further activities associated with, or reasonably related

to, the proposed regulated activity which are made inevitable by the proposed regulated activity and which may have an impact on wetlands or watercourses;

h. Names and mailing addresses of adjacent land owners;

i. Statement by the applicant that the applicant is familiar with all the information provided in the application and is aware of the penalties for obtaining a permit through deception or through inaccurate or misleading information;

j. Authorization for the members and agents of the Commission to inspect the subject land, at reasonable times, during the pendency of an application and for the life of the permit;

k. A completed DEP reporting form; the Commission shall revise or correct the information provided by the applicant and submit the form to the Commissioner of Environmental Protection in accordance with section 22a-39-14 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Commissions;

l. Any other information the Commission deems necessary to the understanding of what the applicant is proposing.

m. Submission of the appropriate filing fee based on the fee schedule established in section 19 of these regulations.

n. Nutrient Allocation Land Use Worksheet (See Section 7.3 for requirements).

o. Columbia Drainage Basin, (where activity is proposed) Number or Name of Basin as identified on the CT DEP Resource Map

p. The Commission may require that the applicant provide the following notice(s) to adjacent property owners when the commission determines it is in the public's best interest and/or if the impact from the proposed regulated activity has potential to impact neighboring properties. Notice of the Wetlands Meeting shall be mailed to the owner(s) of record of abutting land by the applicant, certified receipt requested, no less than fifteen (15) days prior to the Wetlands Meeting. The notice must be mailed to persons who own land that is adjacent to the land that is the subject of the applicants request for a wetlands permit and if required by the Commission, notice to be additionally provided by posting a sign on the land that is the subject of the wetlands application. For purposes of such additional notice, (1) proof of mailing shall be evidenced by a certificate of mailing, and (2) the

person who owns land shall be the owner indicated on the property tax map or on the last-completed grand list as of the date such notice is mailed. All applications and maps and documents relating thereto shall be open for public inspection. Proof of such notification shall be provided to the commission by the applicant prior to the meeting. The commission may choose to increase the extent or reach of the notice to subsequent adjacent property owners to be notified by the Applicant, certified receipt requested, should the commission determine it is in the public's best interest.

7.7 At the discretion of the Commission or its agent, or when the proposed activity involves a significant impact, additional information, based on the nature and anticipated effects of the activity, including but not limited to the following, is required:

a. Site plans for the proposed activity and the land which will be affected thereby which show existing and proposed conditions, wetland and watercourse boundaries, land contours, boundaries of land ownership; proposed alterations and uses of wetlands and watercourses, and other pertinent features of the land and the proposed activity, prepared by a professional engineer, land surveyor, architect or landscape architect licensed by the state, or by such other qualified person;

b. Engineering reports and analyses and additional drawings to fully describe the proposed activity including any filling, excavation, drainage or hydraulic modifications to watercourses and the proposed erosion and sedimentation control plan;

c. Mapping of soil types consistent with the categories established by the National Cooperative Soil Survey of the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service; the wetlands shall be delineated in the field by a soil scientist and the soil scientist's field delineation shall be depicted on the site plans;

d. A description of the ecological communities and functions of the wetlands or watercourses involved with the

application and the effects of the proposed activity on these communities and wetland functions;

e. A description of how the applicant will change, diminish, or enhance the ecological communities and functions of the wetlands or watercourses involved in the application and each alternative which would cause less or no environmental impact to wetlands or watercourses, and a description of why each alternative considered was deemed neither feasible nor prudent;

f. Analysis of chemical or physical characteristics of any fill material; and

g. Management practices and other measures designed to mitigate the impact of the proposed activity.

7.8 The applicant shall certify whether:

a. Any portion of the property on which the regulated activity is proposed is located within 500 feet of the boundary of an adjoining municipality;

b. Traffic attributable to the completed project on the site will use streets within the adjoining municipality to enter or exit the site;

c. Sewer or water drainage from the project site will flow through and impact the sewage or drainage system within the adjoining municipality; or,

d. Water run-off from the improved site will impact streets or other municipal or private property within the adjoining municipality.

7.9 Twelve (12) copies of all application materials shall be submitted to comprise a complete application unless an applicant is otherwise directed, in writing, by the Commission.

7.10 Any application to renew or amend an existing permit shall be filed with the Commission in accordance with section 8 of these regulations at least sixty-five (65) days prior to the expiration date of the permit. Any application to renew or amend such an existing permit shall contain the information required under section 7 of these regulations provided:

- a. The application may incorporate the documentation and record of the prior application;
- b. The application shall describe the extent of work completed at the time of filing and the schedule for completing the activities authorized in the permit;
- c. The application shall state the reason why the authorized activity was not initiated or completed within the time specified in the permit;
- d. The application shall describe any changes in facts or circumstances involved with or affecting wetlands or watercourses or use of the land for which the permit was issued;
- e. The Commission may, prior to the expiration of a permit, accept an untimely application to renew such permit if the authorized, activity is ongoing and allow the continuation of work beyond the expiration date if, in its judgment, the permit is likely to be renewed and the public interest or environment will be best served by not interrupting the activity;

7.11 Any application to renew a permit shall be granted upon request of the permit holder unless the Commission finds that there has been a substantial change in circumstances which requires a new permit application or an enforcement action has been undertaken with regard to the regulated activity for which the permit was issued provided no permit may be valid for more than ten years.

## **Section 8**

### **Application Procedures**

8.1 All petitions, applications, requests or appeals shall be submitted to the Inland Wetlands Watercourses Commission of the Town of Columbia

8.2 The Commission shall, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes section 8-7d(f), notify the clerk of any adjoining municipality of the pendency of any application, petition, appeal, request or plan concerning any project on any site in which:

- a. Any portion of the property affected by a decision of the commission is within five hundred feet of the boundary of an adjoining municipality;
- b. 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;
- c. A significant portion of the sewer or water drainage from the project on the site will flow through and significantly impact the drainage or sewerage system within the adjoining municipality; or
- d. Water run-off from the improved site will impact streets or other municipal or private property within the adjoining municipality. Such notice shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall be mailed within seven days of the date of receipt of the application, petition, appeal, request or plan.

8.3 When an application is filed to conduct or cause to be conducted a regulated activity upon an inland wetland or watercourse, any portion of which is within the watershed of a water company as defined in section 16-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the applicant shall provide written notice of the application to the water company provided such water company has filed a map showing the boundaries of the watershed on the land records of the municipality in which the application is made



and with the inland wetlands agency of such municipality. Such notice shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall be mailed within seven days of the date of the application. The water company, through a representative, may appear and be heard at any hearing on the application. Documentation of such notice shall be provided to the Commission.

8.4 The date of receipt of a petition, application, request or appeal shall be the day of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission, immediately following the day of submission to the Commission or its agent of such petition, application, request or appeal or thirty-five days after such submission, whichever is sooner.

8.5 At any time during the review period, the applicant shall provide such additional information as the Commission may reasonably require. Requests for such additional information shall not stay the time limitations as set forth in subsection 11.2 of these regulations.

8.6 All applications shall be open for public inspection.

8.7 Incomplete applications may be denied.

## **Section 9**

### **Public Hearings**

9.1 The inland wetlands commission shall not hold a public hearing on an application unless the inland wetlands commission determines that the proposed activity may have a significant impact on wetlands or watercourses, a petition signed by at least twenty-five persons who are eighteen years of age or older and who reside in the municipality in which the regulated activity is proposed, requesting a hearing is filed with the inland wetlands commission not later than fourteen days after the date of receipt of such application, or the inland wetlands commission finds that a public hearing regarding such application would be in the public interest. The inland wetlands commission may issue a permit without a public hearing provided no petition provided for in this section is filed with the inland wetlands commission on or before the fourteenth day after the date of receipt of the application. Such hearing shall be held no later than sixty-five days after the receipt of such application. All applications and maps and documents relating thereto shall be open for public inspection. At such hearing any person or persons may appear and be heard and may be represented by an agent or by an attorney.

9.2 Notice of the public hearing shall be published at least twice at intervals of not less than two days, the first not more than fifteen days and not fewer than ten days, and the last not less than two days before the date set for the hearing in a newspaper having a general circulation in each town where the affected wetland and watercourse is located.

9.3 Notice of the Public Hearings shall be mailed to the owner(s) of record of abutting land by the applicant, certified receipt requested, no less than fifteen (15) days prior to the hearing. The notice must be mailed to persons who own land that is adjacent to the land that is the subject of the hearing and if required by the Commission, notice to be additionally provided by posting a sign on the land that is the subject of the hearing. For purposes of such additional notice, (1) proof of mailing shall be evidenced by a certificate of mailing, and (2) the person who owns land shall be the owner indicated on the property tax map or on the last-completed grand list as of the date such notice is mailed. All applications and maps and documents relating thereto shall be open for public inspection. Proof of such notification shall be provided to the commission by the applicant prior to the hearing. The commission may choose to increase the extent or reach of the notice to subsequent adjacent property owners to be notified by the Applicant, certified receipt requested, should the commission determine it is in the best public interest.

9.4 Any significant changes to a current application or plan shall be submitted to the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission of the Town of Columbia at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the next scheduled hearing date or may be submitted less than ten (10) days at the discretion of the Commission Chairman or its agent.

## Section 10

### Considerations for Decision

10.1 The Commission may consider the following in making its decision on an application:

a. The application and its supporting documentation

b. Reports from other agencies and commissions including but not limited to the Town of Columbia:

1. Conservation Commission
2. Planning, Zoning, or Planning and Zoning Commissions
3. Building Official
4. Health Officer

c. The Commission may also consider comments on any application from the Tolland County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Windham Regional Council of Governments; agencies in adjacent municipalities which may be affected by the proposed activity, or other technical agencies or organizations which may undertake additional studies or investigations.

d. Non-receipt of comments from state agencies and commissions listed in subdivision 10.1 b and c above within the prescribed time shall neither delay nor prejudice the decision of the Commission.

e. For an application for which a public hearing is held, public comments, evidence and testimony.

10.2 Criteria for Decision. In carrying out the purposes and policies of sections 22a-36 to 22a-45, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, including matters relating to regulating, licensing and enforcing of the provisions thereof, the Commission shall take into consideration all relevant facts and circumstances, including but not limited to:

a. The environmental impact of the proposed regulated activity on wetlands or watercourses;

- b. The applicant's purpose for, and any feasible and prudent alternatives to, the proposed regulated activity which alternatives would cause less or no environmental impact to wetlands or watercourses;
- c. The relationship between the short term and long term impacts of the proposed regulated activity on wetlands or Watercourses and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity of such wetlands or watercourses;
- d. Irreversible and irretrievable loss of wetland or watercourse resources which would be caused by the proposed regulated activity, including the extent to which such activity would foreclose a future ability to protect, enhance or restore such resources, and any mitigation measures which may be considered as a condition of issuing a permit for such activity including, but not limited to, measures to (1) prevent or minimize pollution or other environmental damage, (2) maintain or enhance existing environmental quality, or (3) in the following order of priority: restore, enhance and create productive wetland or watercourse resources;
- e. The character and degree of injury to, or interference with, safety, health or the reasonable use of property which is caused or threatened by the proposed regulated activity; and
- f. Impacts of the proposed regulated activity on wetlands or watercourses outside the area for which the activity is proposed and future activities associated with or reasonably related to, the proposed regulated activity which are made inevitable by the proposed regulated activity and which may have an impact on wetlands and watercourses.

10.3 In the case of an application, which received a public hearing pursuant to a finding by the Commission that the proposed activity may have a significant impact on wetlands or watercourses, a permit shall not be issued unless the Commission finds on the basis of the record that a feasible and prudent alternative does not exist. In making this finding the Commission shall consider the facts and circumstances set forth in subsection 10.2 of this section. The finding and the reasons therefore shall be stated on the record in writing.

10.4 In the case of an application which is denied on the basis of a finding that there may be feasible and prudent alternatives to the proposed regulated activity which have less adverse impact on wetlands or watercourses, the Commission shall propose on the record in writing the types of alternatives which the applicant may investigate provided this subsection shall not be construed to shift the burden from the applicant to

prove that he is entitled to the permit or to present alternatives to the proposed regulated activity.

10.5 For purposes of this section, (1) “wetlands and watercourses” includes aquatic, plant or animal life and habitats in wetlands or watercourses, and (2) “habitats” means areas or environments in which an organism or biological population normally lives or occurs.

10.6 A municipal inland wetlands agency shall not deny or condition an application for a regulated activity in an area outside wetlands or water courses on the basis of an impact or effect on aquatic, plant, or animal life unless such activity will likely impact or affect the physical characteristics of such wetlands or watercourses.

10.7 In reaching its decision on any application after a public hearing, the Commission shall base its decision on the record of that hearing. Documentary evidence or other material not in the hearing record shall not be considered by the Commission in its decision.

## **Section 11**

### **Decision Process and Permit**

11.1 The Commission, or its duly authorized agent acting pursuant to Section 12 of these regulations, may, in accordance with Section 10 of these regulations, grant the application as filed or grant it upon other terms, conditions, limitations or modifications of the regulated activity designed to carry out the purposes and policies of the Act, or deny the application. Such terms may include any reasonable measures which would mitigate the impacts of the regulated activity and which would (a) prevent or minimize pollution or other environmental damage; (b) maintain or enhance existing environmental quality, or (c) in the following order of priority: restore, enhance and create productive wetland or watercourse resources.

11.2 No later than sixty-five (65) days after receipt of an application, the Commission may hold a public hearing on such application. At such hearing any person or persons may appear and be heard and may be represented by agent or attorney. The hearing shall be completed within thirty-five (35) days of its commencement. Action shall be taken on applications within thirty-five (35) days after completion of a public hearing. In the absence of a public hearing, action shall be taken on applications within sixty-five (65) days from the date of receipt of the application. The applicant may consent to one or more extensions of the periods specified in this subsection, provided the total extension of all such periods shall not be for longer than sixty-five (65) days, or may withdraw the application. The failure of the Commission to act within any time period specified in this subsection or any extension thereof, shall not be deemed to constitute approval of the application. An application deemed incomplete by the Commission shall be withdrawn by the applicant or denied by the Commission.

11.3 The Commission shall state upon its record the reasons and bases for its decision.

11.4 The Commission shall notify the applicant and any person entitled to such notice of its decision within fifteen (15) days of the date of the decision by certified mail, return receipt requested, and the Commission shall cause notice of its order, in the issuance or denial of the permit, to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the town wherein the inland wetland or watercourse lies. In any case in which such notice is

not published within such fifteen day period, the applicant may provide for the publication of such notice within ten days thereafter.

11.5 If an activity authorized by an inland wetland permit also involves an activity which requires a zoning or subdivision approval, special zoning permit, or variance or special exception, under sections 8-3(g), 8-3c, or, 8-26 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Commission shall file a copy of the decision and report on the application with the Town of Columbia Planning, Zoning, or Planning and Zoning Commission within fifteen days of the date of the decision thereon.

11.6 If the Agency grants a permit with terms, conditions, limitations, or modifications, the applicant may attempt to modify the proposal to the Agency's satisfaction. The Agency shall determine whether the proposed modification requires the filing of a new application. The rejection of a modified or corrected application by the Agency shall be equivalent to the denial of an application for the purposes of appeal.

11.7 Any permit issued by the Commission for the development of land for which an approval is required under section 8-3,-8-25 or 8-26 of the Connecticut General Statutes shall be valid for five years provided the Commission may establish a specific time period within which any regulated activity shall be conducted. Any permit issued by the Commission for any other activity shall be valid for not less than two years and not more than five years.

11.8 No permit issued by the Commission shall be assigned or transferred without the written permission of the Commission.

11.9 If a bond or insurance is required in accordance with section 13 of these regulations, the Commission may withhold issuing the permit until such bond or insurance is provided.

11.10 General provisions in the issuance of all permits:

a. The Commission has relied in whole or in part on information provided by the applicant and if such information subsequently proves to be false, deceptive, incomplete or inaccurate, the permit may be modified, suspended or revoked.

b. All permits issued by the Commission are subject to and do not derogate any present or future rights or powers of the Commission or the Town of Columbia, and convey no rights in real estate or material nor any exclusive privileges, and are further subject to any and all public and private rights and to any federal, state, and municipal laws or regulations pertinent to the subject land or activity.



c. If the activity authorized by the Commission's permit also involves an activity which requires zoning or subdivision approval, special permit, variance or special exception under sections 8.3(g), 8-3c, or 8-26 of the Connecticut General Statutes, no work pursuant to the wetland permit may begin until such approval is obtained.

d. In constructing the authorized activities, the permittee shall implement such management practices consistent with the terms and conditions of the permit as needed to control storm water discharges and to prevent erosion and sedimentation and to otherwise prevent pollution of wetlands and watercourses.

e. Permits are not transferable without the prior written consent of the Commission or its commissioner.

## **Section 12**

### **Action by Duly Authorized Agent**

12 .1 The Commission may delegate to its duly authorized agent the authority to approve or extend a license, for an activity that is not located in a wetland or watercourse when such agent finds that the conduct of such activity would result in no greater than a minimal impact on any wetlands or watercourses provided such agent has completed the comprehensive training program developed by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection pursuant to sections 22a-39 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Requests for such approval shall be made on a form provided by the Commission and shall contain the information listed under Section 7.5 of these regulations and any other information the Commission may reasonably require. Notwithstanding the provisions for receipt and processing applications prescribed in Sections 8, 9 and 11 of these regulations, such agent may approve or extend such an activity at any time.

12.2 Any person receiving such approval from such agent shall, within ten days of the date of such approval, publish at the applicant's expense, notice of the approval in a newspaper having a general circulation in the town wherein the activity is located or will have an effect. Any person may appeal such decision of such agent to the Commission within fifteen days after the publication date of the notice and the Commission shall consider such appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting provided such meeting is no earlier than three business days after receipt by such Commission or its agent of such appeal. Any person may appear and be heard at the meeting held by the Commission to consider the subject appeal. The Commission shall, at its discretion, sustain, alter, or reject the decision of its agent or require an application for a permit in accordance with Section 7 of these regulations.

## **Section 13**

### **Bond and Insurance**

13.1 The Commission may require as a permit condition the filing of a bond with such surety in such amount and in a form approved by the Commission.

13.2 The bond or surety shall be conditioned on compliance with the provisions of these regulations and the terms, conditions and limitations established in the permit.

13.3 The commission may require the applicant to certify and provide documentation that it has public liability insurance against liability which might result from the proposed operation or use of the wetlands or watercourses covering any and all damage which might occur within two (2) years of completion of such operations, in an amount commensurate with the regulated.

13.4 The commission may require bonding to insure any activity being undertaken in a non-regulated area, if that activity may potentially disturb the natural and indigenous character of any regulated area.

13.5 The amount of the performance bond shall be released to the permittee upon receipt by the Agency of evidence that the proposed activity(ies) have been substantially completed in a satisfactory manner. The Agency may, in its own discretion release a portion of the bond amount if it is of the opinion that the permitted activity(ies) have been substantially completed and only a minor portion of the activity(ies) remains to be completed.

## **Section 14 Enforcement**

14.1 The Commission may appoint an agent or agents to act in its behalf with the authority to issue notices of violation or cease and desist orders and carry out other actions or investigations necessary for the enforcement of these regulations. In carrying out the purposes of this section, the Commission or its duly authorized agent shall take into consideration the criteria for decision under section 10.2 of these regulations.

14.2 The Commission or its agent may *make* regular inspections at reasonable hours of all regulated activities for which permits have been issued with the consent of the property owner or the authorized agent of the owner during the life of the permit.

14.3 In the case in which a permit has not been issued or a permit has expired, the Commission or its agent may make regular inspections at reasonable hours with the consent of the property owner or the authorized agent of the property owner.

14.4 If the Commission or its duly authorized agent finds that any person is conducting or maintaining any activity, facility or condition which is in violation of the Act or these regulations, the Commission or its duly authorized agent may:

- a. issue a written order by certified mail, return receipt requested, to such person conducting such activity or maintaining such facility or condition to immediately cease such activity or to correct such facility or condition. Within ten (10) calendar days of the issuance of such order the Commission shall hold a hearing to provide the person an opportunity to be heard and show cause why the order should not remain in effect. The Commission shall consider the facts presented at the hearing and within ten (10) days of the completion of the hearing notify the person by certified mail that the original order remains in effect, that a revised order is in effect, or that the order has been withdrawn. The Commission shall publish notice of its decision in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality. The original order shall be effective upon issuance and shall remain in effect until the Commission affirms, revises or withdraws the order. The issuance of an order pursuant to this subsection shall not delay or bar an action pursuant to section 22a-44(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

b. issue a notice of violation to such person conducting such activity or maintaining such facility or condition, stating the nature of the violation, the jurisdiction of the Commission, and prescribing the necessary action and steps to correct the violation including, without limitation, halting work in wetlands or watercourses. The Commission may request that the individual appear at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission to discuss the unauthorized activity, and/or provide a written reply to the notice or file an application for the necessary permit. Failure to carry out the action(s) directed in a notice of violation may result in issuance of the order provided in section 14.3.a or other enforcement proceedings as provided by law.

14.5 The Commission may suspend or revoke a permit if it finds that the permittee has not complied with the terms, conditions or limitations set forth in the permit or has exceeded the scope of the work as set forth in the application including application plans. Prior to revoking or suspending any permit, the Commission shall issue notice to the permittee, personally or by certified mail, return receipt requested, setting forth the facts or conduct which warrants the intended action. The Commission shall hold a hearing to provide the permittee an opportunity to show that it is in compliance with its permit and any and all requirements for retention of the permit. The permittee shall be notified of the Commission's decision to suspend, revoke, or maintain a permit by certified mail within fifteen (15) days of the date of its decision. The Commission shall publish notice of the suspension or revocation in a newspaper having general circulation in the municipality.

## **Section 15**

### **Amendments**

15.1 These regulations and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Map for the Town of Columbia may be amended, from time to time, by the Commission in accordance with changes in the Connecticut General Statutes or regulations of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, or as new information regarding soils and inland wetlands and watercourses becomes available.

15.2 An application filed with the Commission which is in conformance with the applicable inland wetlands regulations as of the date of the receipt of such application shall not be required thereafter to comply with any change in inland wetland regulations, including changes to setbacks and buffers, taking effect on or after the date of such receipt and any appeal from the decision of such Commission with respect to such application shall not be dismissed by the Superior Court on the grounds that such a change has taken effect on or after the date of such receipt. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to apply (1) to the establishment, amendment or change of boundaries of inland wetlands or watercourses or (2) to any change in regulations necessary to make such regulations consistent with the provisions of the Act as of the date of such receipt.

15.3 These regulations and the Town of Columbia Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Map shall be amended in the manner specified in section 22a-42a of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended. The Commission shall provide the Commissioner of Environmental Protection with a copy of any proposed regulations and notice of the public hearing to consider any proposed regulations or amendments thereto, except map amendments, at least thirty-five days before the public hearing on their adoption.

(Note: Application fee schedules shall be adopted as Commission regulations or as otherwise provided by town ordinance.)

15.4 Petitions requesting changes or amendments to the “Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Map, Columbia, Connecticut”, shall contain at least the following information:

- a. The petitioner's name, mailing address and telephone number;
- b. The address, or location, of the land affected by the petition;
- c. The petitioner's interest in the land affected by the petition
- d. Map(s) showing the geographic location of the land affected by the petition and the existing and the proposed wetland(s) and watercourse(s) boundaries on such land in accurate detail together with the documentation supporting such proposed boundary locations; and
- e. The reasons for the requested action.

15.5 Any person who submits a petition to amend the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Map, Columbia Connecticut, shall bear the burden of proof for all requested map amendments. Such proof may include, but is not limited to, professional interpretation of aerial photography and remote sensing imagery, resource mapping, soils mapping, or other information acceptable to the Commission. If such person is the owner, developer or contract purchaser of the land which is the subject of the petition, or if such person is representing the interests of such an owner, developer or purchaser, in addition to the information required in subsection 15.4, the petition shall include:

- a. The name, mailing address and telephone number of the owner(s) of such land and owner(s) agent or other representative;
- b. The names and mailing addresses of the owners of abutting land;
- c. Documentation by a soil scientist of the distribution of wetland soils on said land. Such documentation shall at a minimum include the report of the soil scientist documenting the location of wetland soils on the land and a map of the said land indicating the flag locations set by the soil scientist and defining the boundaries of wetland soil types; and
- d. Map(s) showing any proposed development of the land in relation to existing and proposed wetland and watercourse boundaries.

15.6 Watercourses shall be delineated by a soil scientist, geologist, ecologist or other qualified individual.

15.7 A public hearing shall be held on petitions to amend the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Map. Notice of the hearing shall be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the municipality where the land that is the subject of the hearing is located at least twice at intervals of not less than two days, the first not more than fifteen days, nor less than ten days, and the last not less than two days before the date set for the hearing. All materials including maps and documents relating to the petition shall be open for public inspection.

15.8 The commission shall hold a public hearing on a petition to amend the regulations and the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Map within sixty-five days after receipt of such petition. The hearing shall be completed within thirty-five days after commencement. The commission shall act upon the changes requested in such petition within sixty-five days after completion of such hearing. At such hearing, any person or persons may appear and be heard and may be represented by agent or attorney. The petitioner may consent to one or more extensions of any period specified in this subsection, provided the total extension of all such periods shall not be for longer than sixty-five days, or may withdraw such petition. Failure of the commission to act within any time period specified in this subsection or any extension thereof, shall not be deemed to constitute approval of the petition.

15.9 The Commission shall make its decision and state, in writing, the reasons why the change in the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Map was made.



## **Section 16**

### **Appeals**

16.1 Appeal on actions of the Commission shall be made in accordance with the provisions of section 22a-43 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended.

16.2 Notice of such appeal shall be served upon the Commission and the Commissioner of Environmental Protection.

**Section 17**  
**Conflict and Severance**

17.1 If there is a conflict among the provisions of these regulations, the provision which imposes the most stringent standards for the use of wetlands and watercourses shall govern. The invalidity of any word, clause, sentence, section, part, subsection, subdivision or provision of these regulations shall not affect the validity of any other part which can be given effect without such invalid part or parts.

17.2 If there is a conflict between the provisions of these regulations and the provisions of the Act, the provisions of the Act shall govern.

## **Section 18**

### **Other Permits**

18.1 Nothing in these regulations shall obviate the requirements for the applicant to obtain any other assents, permits or licenses required by law or regulation by the Town of Columbia, the State of Connecticut or the Government of the United States including any approval required by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Obtaining such assents, permits or licenses is the sole responsibility of the applicant.

## **Section 19**

### **Application Fees**

19.1 Fees are set to cover the reasonable cost of reviewing and acting on applications, petitions and monitoring compliance with any permit or commission order. A schedule of fees and rates as herein noted will be established annually by the commission in November and the fees will be effective for the ensuing calendar year. If the commission does not act upon the fees and rates noted herein by the first meeting in February of the following year the schedule of fees, then in effect, will remain in place for the ensuing calendar year. Any fees required by these regulations shall be submitted to the commission at the time noted herein. Payments will be made by check or money order payable to the Town of Columbia.

19.2 No application shall be approved or permit granted by the commission unless all fees that are determined applicable by the commission are paid in full unless a waiver has been granted by the commission pursuant to Subsection 19.7 of these Regulations.

19.3 The basic “Residential”, “Residential Subdivision”, “Commercial”, and “Other Uses” fees, noted in Subsection 19.5 of these regulations are non-refundable.

19.4 Definitions: As used in Subsection 19.5 of these Regulations:

A. “Residential Uses” means activities carried out on property developed for permanent housing or being developed to be occupied by permanent residence.

B. “Residential Subdivision” means activities on property being subdivided and developed into additional residential parcels or homes on land in common ownership

C. “Commercial Uses” means activities on property developed for industry, commerce, trade, recreation and business or being developed to be occupied for such purposes, for profit or non-profit.

D. "Other Uses" means activities other than residential or commercial uses noted above.

#### 19.5 Filing, Application and Permit Fees Fee Structure

A. Basic Filing Fees due at the time an application is formally received by the Commission for Regulated Activities. (Section 6)

(1) Basic Residential Filing Fee	\$125.00
Plus fee from Schedule A Impact to wetlands or watercourse.	
(2) Basic Residential Subdivision Filing Fee	\$125.00
Plus \$125.00 per parcel that contains a "Regulated Activity,"	
Plus fee from Schedule A	
(3) Basic Commercial Filing Fee	\$300.00
Plus fee from Schedule A	
(4) Basic Other Uses Filing Fee	\$100.00
Plus fee from Schedule A	
(5) Basic Agent Fee for Approval or Extension of Activity Pursuant to Section 12	\$65.00
(6) Residential uses with minimal impact	\$100.00
Plus fee from Schedule A	

The above fees cover the cost of processing the application, preliminary review of application and plans, initial inspection(s) of the site and meeting(s) with the applicant or the applicant's agent providing a final review or report and summary ruling on the Commission's decision. If an application requires additional review time and or monitoring by staff or consultants and these costs are in excess of the basic filing fee Schedule B and or Schedule C will be applied to that application. This will allow the Town to transfer the actual costs of review and or monitoring directly to the applicant. An estimate of these costs will be provided to the applicant within 10 days of receipt of the application, any portion of these fees in excess of the actual cost will be refunded to the applicant.

- B. Application fee for regulated activity started without a permit  
Double Regular Fee  
Plus: Fee from Schedule A
  
- C. Inspection for Non-compliance to permit conditions  
\$50.00 per/site inspection or per1/2hr.
  
- D. Fee for a permit application that includes road construction (private or public) involving wetland or watercourses \$1000.00 up to 1000 feet and \$1.00 per foot there after.
  
- E. Significant Activity and or Public Hearing Fee (Subsection 7.5) \$250.00
  
  
- F. Map Amendment Petitions - (Subsection 14.3) \$250.00  
plus \$20.00 per 1000 linear feet of total length of wetlands and watercourses boundary subject to the proposed boundary change.
  
- G. Modification of previously approved permit to include, but not limited to, extension(s) of time in which to initiate and/or complete the activity. \$70.00
  
- H. State Fee: The State fee is currently \$30.00  
The applicant will be responsible for this fee and any increases in the State fee.
  
- I. The applicant is responsible for the cost of publishing the legal notice of the commission's decision. The approximate amount of publishing this notice will be assessed at the time of filing.

**Schedule A.**

Area of Wetland and Watercourse Impacted. A fee for the area measured in square feet of wetlands to be affected by the proposed regulated activity including, but not limited to, any excavation, filling, alteration, or pollution of such wetland or watercourse” and per linear foot of watercourse disturbed.

Fee per 1000 square feet of affected wetlands	\$100.00
Fee per linear foot of watercourse disturbed	\$2.00

**Schedule B.**

Complex Application Fee: The Inland Wetlands Agency may charge an additional fee sufficient to cover the cost of reviewing and acting on complex applications. Such fee may include, but not be limited to, the cost of retaining experts to analyze, review, and report on issues requiring such experts. The Agency or the duly authorized agent shall estimate the complex application fee which shall be paid pursuant to section 19.1 of these regulations within 10 days of the applicant's receipt or notice of such estimate. Any portion of the complex application fee in excess of the actual cost shall be refunded to the applicant no later than 30 days after publication of the agency's decision

**Schedule C.**

Additional Monitoring and Inspection Fees

Wetlands Agent -----	\$35.00 per inspection or per ½ hour
Engineer-----	\$85.00 per inspection or per ½ hour
Environmental Consultant-----	\$85.00 per inspection or per ½ hour

These fees along with approximate number and type of inspections will be determined at the time of filing, and/or assessed per inspection required to monitor the site after the permit is issued

19.6 Exemptions: The Town of Columbia, Connecticut and the State of Connecticut shall be exempt from the payment of fees cited in Subsection 19.5.

19.7 Waiver: The applicant may petition the Commission to waive, reduce or allow delayed payment of a fee. Such petitions shall be in writing and shall state fully the facts and circumstances the Commission

should consider in its determination under this subsection. The Commission may waive all or part of the fee in question if the Commission determines that:

- a. The Activity applied for would clearly result in a substantial public benefit to the environment or to the public health and safety and the applicant would reasonably be deterred from initiating the activity solely or primarily as a result of the amount of the application fee, or
- b. The amount of the application fee is clearly excessive in relations to the cost to the Town for reviewing and processing the application. The Commission shall state upon its record the basis for all actions under this subsection.



**Section 20**  
**Effective Date of Regulations**

20.1 These regulations are effective upon filing in the Office of the Town Clerk and publication of a notice of such filing in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Columbia.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Connecticut General Statute section 1-1(q)**

Except as otherwise specifically defined, the words “agriculture” and “farming” shall include cultivation of the soil, dairying, forestry, raising or harvesting any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including the raising, shearing, feeding, caring for, training and management of livestock, including horses, bees, poultry, fur-bearing animals and wildlife, and the raising or harvesting of oysters, clams, mussels, other molluscan shellfish or fish; the operation, management, conservation, improvement or maintenance of a farm and its buildings, tools and equipment, or salvaging timber or cleared land of brush or other debris left by storm, as an incident to such farming operations; the production or harvesting of maple syrup or maple sugar, or any agricultural commodity, including lumber, as an incident to ordinary farming operations or the harvesting of mushrooms, the hatching of poultry, or the construction, operation or maintenance of ditches, canals, reservoirs or waterways used exclusively for farming purposes; handling, planting, drying, packing, packaging, processing, freezing, grading, storing or delivering to storage or to market, or to a carrier for transportation to market, or for direct sale any agricultural or horticultural commodity as an incident to ordinary farming operations, or, in the case of fruits and vegetables, as an incident to the preparation of such fruits or vegetables for market or for direct sale. The term “farm” includes farm buildings, and accessory buildings thereto, nurseries, orchards, ranges, greenhouses, hoop houses and other temporary structures or other structures used primarily for the raising and, as an incident to ordinary farming operations, the sale of agricultural or horticultural commodities. The term “aquaculture” means the farming of the waters of the state and tidal wetlands and the production of protein food, including fish, oysters, clams, mussels and other mulluscan shellfish, on leased, franchised and public underwater farm lands. Nothing herein shall restrict the power of a local zoning authority under chapter 124.

## **APPENDIX B**

Sec. 8-7d. Hearings and decisions. Time limits. Day of receipt. Notice to adjoining municipality. Public notice registry. (a) In all matters wherein a formal petition, application, request or appeal must be submitted to a zoning commission, planning and zoning commission or zoning board of appeals under this chapter, a planning commission under chapter 126 or an inland wetlands agency under chapter 440 and a hearing is required or otherwise held on such petition, application, request or appeal, such hearing shall commence within sixty-five days after receipt of such petition, application, request or appeal and shall be completed within thirty-five days after such hearing commences, unless a shorter period of time is required under this chapter, chapter 126 or chapter 440. Notice of the hearing shall be published in a newspaper having a general circulation in such municipality where the land that is the subject of the hearing is located at least twice, at intervals of not less than two days, the first not more than fifteen days or less than ten days and the last not less than two days before the date set for the hearing. In addition to such notice, such commission, board or agency may, by regulation, provide for additional notice. Such regulations shall include provisions that the notice be mailed to persons who own land that is adjacent to the land that is the subject of the hearing or be provided by posting a sign on the land that is the subject of the hearing, or both. For purposes of such additional notice, (1) proof of mailing shall be evidenced by a certificate of mailing, and (2) the person who owns land shall be the owner indicated on the property tax map or on the last-completed grand list as of the date such notice is mailed. All applications and maps and documents relating thereto shall be open for public inspection. At such hearing, any person or persons may appear and be heard and may be represented by agent or by attorney. All decisions on such matters shall be rendered within sixty-five days after completion of such hearing, unless a shorter period of time is required under this chapter, chapter 126 or chapter 440. The petitioner or applicant may consent to one or more extensions of any period specified in this subsection, provided the total extension of all such periods shall not be for longer than sixty-five days, or may withdraw such petition, application, request, or appeal.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, whenever the approval of a site plan is the only requirement to be met or remaining to be met under the zoning regulations for any building, use or structure, a decision on an application for approval of such site plan shall be rendered within sixty-five days

after receipt of such site plan. Whenever a decision is to be made on an application for subdivision approval under chapter 126 on which no hearing is held, such decision shall be rendered within sixty-five days after receipt of such application. Whenever a decision is to be made on an inland wetlands and watercourses application under chapter 440 on which no hearing is held, such decision shall be rendered within sixty-five days after receipt of such application. The applicant may consent to one or more extensions of such period provided the total period of any such extension or extensions shall not exceed sixty-five days or may withdraw such plan or application.

(c) For purposes of subsection (a) or (b) of this section and section 7-246a, the date of receipt of a petition, application, request or appeal shall be the day of the next regularly scheduled meeting of such commission, board or agency, immediately following the day of submission to such commission, board or agency or its agent of such petition, application, request or appeal or thirty-five days after such submission, whichever is sooner. If the commission, board or agency does not maintain an office with regular office hours, the office of the clerk of the municipality shall act as the agent of such commission, board or agency for the receipt of any petition, application, request or appeal.

(d) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to any action initiated by any zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission regarding adoption or change of any zoning regulation or boundary or any subdivision regulation.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, if an application involves an activity regulated pursuant to sections 22a-36 to 22a-45, inclusive, and the time for a decision by a zoning commission or planning and zoning commission established pursuant to this section would elapse prior to the thirty-fifth day after a decision by the inland wetlands agency, the time period for a decision shall be extended to thirty-five days after the decision of such agency. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to apply to any extension consented to by an applicant or petitioner.

(f) The zoning commission, planning commission, zoning and planning commission, zoning board of appeals or inland wetlands agency shall notify the clerk of any adjoining municipality of the pendency of any application, petition, appeal, request or plan concerning any project on any site in which: (1) Any portion of the property affected by a decision of such commission, board or agency 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 the site will flow through and significantly impact the drainage or sewerage system within the adjoining municipality; or (4) water runoff from the improved site will impact streets or other municipal or private property within the adjoining municipality. Such notice shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, and shall be mailed within seven days of the date of receipt of the application, petition, request or plan. Such adjoining municipality may, through a representative, appear and be heard at any hearing on any such application, petition, appeal, request or plan.

(g) (1) Any zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission initiating any action regarding adoption or change of any zoning regulation or boundary or any subdivision regulation or regarding the preparation or amendment of the plan of conservation and development shall provide notice of such action in accordance with this subsection in addition to any other notice required under any provision of the general statutes.

(2) A zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission shall establish a public notice registry of landowners, electors and nonprofit organizations qualified as tax-exempt organizations under the provisions of Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any subsequent corresponding internal revenue code of the United States, as from time to time amended, requesting notice under this subsection. Each municipality shall notify residents of such registry and the process for registering for notice under this subsection. The zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission shall place on such registry the names and addresses of any such landowner, elector or organization upon written request of such landowner, elector or organization. A landowner, elector or organization may request such notice be sent by mail or by electronic mail. The name and address of a landowner, elector or organization who requests to be placed on the public notice registry shall remain on such registry for a period of three years after the establishment of such registry. Thereafter any land owner, elector or organization may request to be placed on such registry for additional periods of three years.

(3) Any notice under this subsection shall be mailed to all landowners, electors and organizations in the public notice registry not later than seven days prior to the commencement of the public hearing on such action, if feasible. Such notice may be mailed by

electronic mail if the zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission or the municipality has an electronic mail service provider.

(4) No zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission shall be civilly liable to any landowner, elector or nonprofit organization requesting notice under this subsection with respect to any act done or omitted in good faith or through a bona fide error that occurred despite reasonable procedures maintained by the zoning commission, planning commission or planning and zoning commission to prevent such errors in complying with the provisions of this section.

**Nutrient Allocation Land Use Worksheet**

**Prior to the issuance of a wetlands permit, (all parcels within 200 feet of Columbia Lake) OR (all activities within 200 feet of Columbia Lake) OR (all properties within the Columbia Lake watershed) that have an application before the Columbia Inlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC) for a regulated activity must complete the Nutrient Allocation Worksheet Sheet 1 Revised January 1 2008 and provide projected annual export of total phosphorus in pounds per acre per year in estimated storm water from the subject parcel and shall be computed both for the parcel with existing improvements thereon and for the existing parcel based on the completed project for which the Wetlands permit is sought. If the activity for which the wetlands permit is sought requires a building permit, then the applicant shall provide as required in section 21.4 of the Zoning Regulations a sign off or comments from the Zoning Enforcement Officer on his/her review of the Nutrient Allocation Worksheet designed to compute the annual export of total phosphorus. These computations shall be made in accordance with the methods defined in "Columbia Lake Watershed Management Plan" (hereafter called the Management Plan) approved 1998, or as may be amended from time to time based on newer information including but not limited to basic scientific understanding of nutrient dynamics, infiltration rates of various soils or ground covers and proximal monitoring data from Columbia Lake. Data for computing the nutrient export estimate, as defined in the Management Plan shall be provided by the applicant on the site plans.**

**If the computed annual export of total phosphorus for the existing parcel with the completed project for which the Wetlands permit is sought is greater than the allocation defined in the Management Plan, the applicant shall apply adequate best management practices (BMPs) singly or in combination to reduce the total phosphorus export either to comply with the allocation requirements of the overlay zone in which the parcel is located on the Zoning Map or to both produce a computed annual export of total phosphorus at least 10% less than the computed annual export of total phosphorus from the subject parcel with existing improvements thereon on the date of the permit application, and to produce a computed annual export of total phosphorus at a 100% reduction of total phosphorus for the activity a wetlands permit is being sought. For these purposes, total phosphorus export shall be recomputed with credits assigned for BMPs where infiltration coefficients are available and as defined in the Management Plan.**

**A worksheet provided as part of the wetland's application - building permit application materials will include spaces for all required input variables, levels of total phosphorus to be achieved, and suggested infiltration or other coefficients as available for nutrient allocation calculation. The applicant will fill in this worksheet and annotate these input numbers to details of a site plan included in the wetland's application- building permit application package. With the applicant supplied information, the Agent (ZEO) (wetlands agent if the activity applied for will not require a building permit) will input this applicant data into a computer spreadsheet analysis to estimate the levels of total phosphorus (lb/acre/year) in surface storm water coming off the specific site or land parcel. The worksheet shall be based on the latest revision of a nutrient allocation model and level of total phosphorus permissible in each of the Columbia Lake Watershed Overlay Zones on the Residential Agricultural District, LAR, LBR, and LCR.**

#### **Examples of Best Management Practices for Reduction of Phosphorus**

**The applicant who is designing or redesigning a project application site plan may use a number of manuals or texts to find examples or diagrams of what are the current Best Management Practices (or BMPs). The Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual ( draft 2003 or as amended) and the Connecticut Erosion and Sedimentation Guidelines (2002 or as amended) contain some examples, explanations, and diagrams for BMPs that might be available and appropriate to include in the building permit application site plan.**

**Generally, applicants for Wetlands permits can reduce total phosphorus in stormwater by increasing the stormwater infiltration and the detention of stormwater before it reaches Columbia Lake. For smaller projects and individual land parcels, the most valuable and practical BMPs are included but not limited to those in the following list:**

- O Permeable pavement choices**
- O Bio-retention structures/residential rain gardens**
- O Vegetated swales, buffers, filter strips**
- O Drywells for roof drains/leaching trenches**
- O Rainwater harvesting/rain barrels**
- O Dry detention ponds**



- O Underground detention facilities**
- O Vegetative filter strips/level spreaders**
- O Grassed drainage swales, wet or dry**
- O Proper location and reduction of impervious area on site**
- O Maintain or restore pre-development vegetation by type**
- O Encourage sheet flow versus channelization of storm water**
- O Disconnect flows from multiple impervious surfaces**
- O Minimize creation of steep slopes/vice versa**
- O Replanting with trees, underbrush, groundcovers, flowerbeds**

**Infiltration coefficients to calculate credits for the site plan worksheet may or may not be available for the above list of BMPS. The most current list of infiltration coefficients available in the scientific literature will be available on the worksheet page of the building permit application.**

#### **21.4.5 Additional (Non-Regulatory but Suggested) Columbia Lake Protection Actions Not in the Purview of the Commission.**

**In addition to the requirement of compliance with the Nutrient Allocation of property within the designated Columbia Lake Protection Overlay Zone, residents are encouraged to take additional voluntary actions to protect the quality of Columbia Lake as described in the Management Plan, including but not limited to:**

- Proper maintenance and pump-out frequency of on-site wastewater disposal systems (septic systems),**
- Consider installation of septic tank effluent filters when service is performed,**
- Use of sand fill materials with a phosphorus attenuation capacity exceeding 0.01 kg P / cubic ft when constructing or repairing septic system leaching fields,**
- Design leaching field geometry to maximize down-gradient soil contact volume and avoid intersecting septic groundwater plumes,**
- Avoid the use of septic system additives,**
- Maximize phosphorus removal from wastewater by approved innovative designs,**
- Only use fertilizers that have low, or no phosphorus content made available at local vendors. (\* effective October 15, 2003)**

