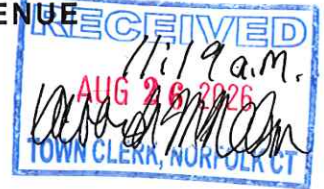


TOWN OF NORFOLK – INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION
****JOINT MEETING WITH CONSERVATION COMMISSION****
NORFOLK TOWN HALL – 2ND FLOOR – 19 MAPLE AVENUE
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026 - 4:00PM



1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL.

Inland Wetlands Chairman Hartley Mead called the meeting to order at 4PM. Also present from the Inland Wetlands Commission were Jill Chase, Myron Kwast, Bill Millard, Joel Nelson, and Ted Otto. Alternate Phil Lovett was absent.

Present from the Conservation Commission were Chairperson Susannah Wood, John Anderson, Becky Eaton, and Bill Ticineto.

First Selectman Henry Tirrell and Troy LaMere, Public Works Supervisor, were also in attendance.

2. INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH TOWN OF NORFOLK PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR REGARDING ROADSIDE HERBICIDE APPLICATION FOR WEED CONTROL.

Public Works Supervisor Troy LaMere addressed the Commission to explain the current difficulties with weed overgrowth around guardrails, street signs, and telephone poles. He explained that this necessary upkeep had not been done for a long time, one mower was out of operation, and the department had insufficient staffing to do all the work by hand.

TruGreen Representative Adrian Spence joined the meeting at 4:08PM. Mr. Spence explained that weed spraying typically begins around Memorial Day in order to catch most species before they grow too large. He explained the products that they use and that the mixture could be adjusted based on the needs of the client. He explained that their spraying staff were extremely experienced, with at least fifteen years on the job, and he relied on them to make appropriate decisions about spraying locations and amounts in the field. Typically one worker is driving the chemical truck while a second worker is on the ground operating the applicator hose. Mr. Spence explained that the spray is applied in a 2 to 3-foot swath in a designated area, and no chemicals are sprayed within 10 feet of wetlands and water. He explained that their team relies on the client town to identify any areas of particular concern, and that they typically get that information before they begin. Mr. Spence said that information regarding key waterways and/or wetlands would be useful.

Members of both Commissions asked several questions regarding the chemicals to be used, timing of the proposed upcoming treatment, and specific locations where spraying was proposed. It was agreed during this discussion that, since there was only one more month in the season, it did not make sense to spray at this time. Mr. LaMere and Mr. Spence agreed that it made the most sense to wait until next spring, as it would give ample time to identify the key locations to spray and the key locations to avoid.

Mr. Anderson asked several questions about whether the proposed spraying would best attack the taller woody brush that Mr. LaMere identified as a problem. Mr. LaMere said that his crew typically cuts the brush down to the level of the guardrail, so it would only be as high as the guardrail when treated. Mr. Spence explained that the mixture would likely include Garlon in order to get the woody brush.

Mr. LaMere also noted that there are areas where vines have completely enclosed some of the guardrails; he cited Winchester Road as a prime example. This is a safety issue as the vines could be hiding broken guardrails in need of repair. Mr. LaMere estimated that approximately 50% of the guardrails in town are obstructed by weed growth. He also noted that on narrow roads like Ashpohtag Road, the overgrowth greatly reduces the travel way for drivers using the road.

Mr. LaMere noted that he had been working with Ms. Wood to map invasive species along the roadsides. He said that there is mugwort and other invasives that they do not mow, as that encourages proliferations of the invasives, and he asked Mr. Spence about whether they had any treatments for this. Mr. Spence explained that these very often need more specialized attention and treatment.

Ms. Chase noted that timing of the treatment impacts not only the effectiveness in killing the weeds but it also has impact on the birds eating the berries and bees collecting pollen; this is yet another reason to defer treatment to the early spring. Mr. Nelson identified problems with guardrails in South Norfolk, but he noted that many were directly adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies and he was concerned with chemicals getting into the water.

Mr. Anderson questioned whether Inland Wetlands would require permitting for the application. Ms. Sefcik and Chairman Mead explained that, while more information was needed as to where specifically the treatment would occur, it was likely to require some level of permitting and conditions. Ms. Sefcik and Ms. Chase noted that, even if the spraying was at least ten feet away from wetlands and waterbodies, it could still potentially be occurring within the upland review area.

Mr. Mead suggested a follow-up meeting to discuss the mapping of the proposed spraying area/spraying avoidance area. Ms. Sefcik suggested that a couple of members of the Inland Wetlands Commission and a couple of members from the Conservation Commission could get together in the interim to move this along. John Anderson and Becky Eaton from the Conservation Commission volunteered, as did Bill Millard and Ted Otto from the Inland Wetlands Commission. Mr. LaMere stated that he would work on getting information from other nearby towns for suggestions as to how they addressed wetlands/watercourse areas. Mr. Tirrell explained to those present the town's recent purchase of the Vialytics road management system to inventory assets, track conditions over time, and ultimately to plan and prioritize road improvement projects.

3. ADJOURNMENT.

MOTION Ms. Chase, second Mr. Kwast, to adjourn the meeting at 4:50PM; unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey M. Sefcik
Land Use Administrator

