

June 8, 2020

Mr. Nickerson,

I am writing in response to your June 4, 2020 letter written to the Inland Wetland Commission. I would like to assure you that our commission is by no means displaying a “renegade/rogue” attitude as you suggest.

Your letter further states that as commissioners we “are expected to listen and consider the advice of town council, our professional staff, and state agencies...Disregarding and even resisting this guidance could potentially cost the taxpayers of our town significant damage.” I believe I speak on behalf of the rest of the commission, that we are not resisting guidance or ignoring advice. We are considering each application and rendering our decisions in accordance with our Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations.

Our purpose, as stated formally in town regulations, is “[...] 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 [...]”. And I sincerely believe that my fellow commission members are dedicated to this mission.

Every member of the commission has listened, researched and fairly debated each application, as the record shows. Each member brings a unique skill set that I am proud to be witness to as I feel our discussions during meetings have been well-rounded, productive and represent all sides. We are volunteers of the town who are dedicating our time and expertise to the town we love.

In regards to the emails between our Chair, Gary Upton, and yourself, I have read them a number of times, and I haven’t seen a “refusal to meet” in the emails. We are in the midst of a global pandemic and I would hope that as First Selectman of this town you would be empathetic towards people’s different circumstances and comfort levels and adjust your meeting flexibility accordingly. Chair Gary Upton did suggest a zoom meeting and, therefore, I do not agree that he refused to meet with you.

I am proud to be serving on the Inland Wetlands Commission alongside some of the brightest, genuine and dedicated volunteers, whom are serving in accordance with our town Inland Wetlands and Watercourse Regulations.

Best regards,

*Kristen Chantrell*

Kristen Chantrell  
Vice Chair  
Inland Wetlands Commission