



Town of Simsbury

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SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Office of Planning and Community Development

To: Simsbury Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands Agency
From: Savannah-Nicole Villalba, AICP, AZT, Assistant Town Planner
Date: August 10, 2022
RE: Conservation Commission/Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency Training Opportunities

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an overview of relevant training opportunities available.

- I. [Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency Comprehensive Training Program](#)
 - **Description:** *This online training program allows municipal inland wetlands agencies and their staff to meet the regulatory and training requirements of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act (IWWA). This program instructs and guides agency members and staff on (1) the law they are implementing and enforcing and (2) the resources they are charged with protecting. Municipal inland wetlands agencies have the daunting task of balancing support for their community's economy with the need to protect and restore inland wetland and watercourse resources. This course assists agencies with their responsibilities by examining key sections of the IWWA, important procedures and critical legal concepts for conducting agency business, stream crossing guidelines, habitat enhancement and restoration techniques, maps and site plans, and more! It is strongly recommended that all new municipal inland wetlands agency members and staff complete this training program. Veteran members and staff can benefit from taking the course as it provides a good review of fundamental subject matter.*

- II. [The University of Connecticut's Center for Land Use Education and Research \(CLEAR\) Land Use Academy](#)
 - **Description:** *The UConn CLEAR Land Use Academy (LUA) provides practical education for the critical local land use decision maker. Our program focuses on the fundamental knowledge and skills needed to serve effectively on a local land use commission. New land use commissioners and those considering becoming commissioners will find our workshops especially useful, as will current commissioners seeking to update or refresh their understanding of fundamental land use topics. LUA has been around (in various forms under various pseudonyms) for over 30 years.*

III. [Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency Training Educational Video Series: Introduction: Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act](#)

- **Description:** *This video will assist Connecticut's municipal inland wetlands agencies in understanding their role and responsibilities in regulating activities which may impact or affect wetlands and watercourses. The nine chapters present critical topics such as Connecticut's definition of "wetlands", the agency meeting, and timelines for applications.*

IV. [Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency Training Educational Video Series: An Introduction to Map Reading and Site Plan Review](#)

- **Description:** *This entertaining video, tailored for Connecticut's municipal inland wetlands agencies, takes you on an imaginative journey with new inland wetlands agency member Harvey Windsor as he learns about different maps and navigates site plans.*

V. [Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency Training Educational Video Series: The Functions and Values of Wetlands and Watercourses](#)

- **Description:** *Join Larry Locus and his digital assistant in a visual exploration of the functions and values of wetlands and watercourses, focusing on the key areas of hydrology, ecology and land use. Experience the beauty and complexity of these natural resources while learning why wetlands and watercourses are indispensable and irreplaceable.*

VI. [The National Association of Wetlands Managers Webinars and Trainings](#)

- **Description:** *The National Association of Wetlands Managers (NAWM) has a variety of free, open-access training and educational materials that cover a broad variety of wetlands related topics.*

It is staff's intent to review this list quarterly to provide any updates on additional training opportunities.

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