

## Ridgefield Conservation Commission

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May 8, 2017

Mr. Rudy Marconi, First Selectman  
400 Main Street  
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Dear Rudy:

The Conservation Commission is pleased to see progress on the adoption of guidelines for livestock ownership in Ridgefield. Manure has had an impact on water quality in the town, contributing to nutrient pollution in our water bodies. We believe the current draft guidelines are a good beginning, but felt there should be several additions to ensure that water quality is preserved.

### **Section 120-8**

We would like to see Section 120-8 titled: "Minimum lot size; manure storage; grazing".

### **Section 120-8C**

Section 120-8C reads: "Manure storage or structures for manure storage (permanent or temporary) for any livestock subject to this article shall not be located any closer than 25 feet to any property line".

We would like to see that changed to: "Manure storage or structures for manure storage (permanent or temporary) for any livestock subject to this article shall not be located any closer than 25 feet to any property line or 100 feet to any wetland or watercourse". (The 100-foot setback is mentioned later in the document, but we believe it should be mentioned in both places, and that "wetland" should be added).

## Section 120-8D

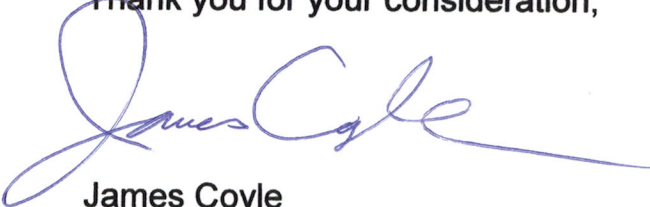
We would like to see a Section 120-8 D added, to read: "A vegetative filter strip (to be comprised of native trees, shrubs and ground covers) shall be planted between grazing areas and any wetland or watercourse, the width of which is to be based on slope, as follows:

<u>Slope (%)</u>	<u>Minimum Buffer (feet)</u>
0	50
5	70
10	90
15	110
20	130
25	150

Livestock guidelines in other states regarding grazing setbacks from wetlands and watercourses run from a minimum of 200 feet, regardless of slope, to a 50-foot minimum, with a wider buffer on a sloped lot. The above recommendation is from the University of Massachusetts. The US Department of Agriculture, NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service) also recommends fencing between grazing areas and wetlands, to keep livestock out of the water.

Native vegetative strips (buffers) are often added to applications to the IWB to protect wetlands and watercourses from nutrient pollution (usually from goose manure and fertilizer use), so this addition would not be unnecessarily restrictive.

Thank you for your consideration,



James Coyle  
Chairman