

1 WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2 REGULAR MEETING
3 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2011
4 7 p.m.
5 TOWN HALL, BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
6 45 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WALLINGFORD, CT

7
8 **MINUTES**
9

10 **PRESENT:** Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne Saunders; Dianne
11 Lendler; Ken Ryan; Carl Arsenault; Tom Pietras; Erin O'Hare, Environmental and Natural
12 Resources Planner.

13
14 **NOT PRESENT:** Chairman Jeff Borne; Commissioners John Lathrop and Jim Pyskaty.
15 Vice-Chair Heffernon acting as Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
16

17 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

18 **A. Minutes, Sept. 8, 2011**
19

20 On page 4 at bottom of 9A, "Polonia" should be spelled "Paulonia" and is not rare but is
21 an "unexpected specimen" not "rare." The tree is also listed as "invasive" in the
22 Southeast and in Connecticut.

23 On page 2, under D, line 17, Commissioner Lathrop went out and "inventoried" the tree
24 damage, not "cleared" the tree damage. On line 24, Acting Chair Heffernon was directed
25 to send the memo to Henry McCully and John Gawlak. On page 4, line 8 it is "Watershed
26 Association."
27

28 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Ryan second by Commissioner Arsenault**
29 **to approve the Meeting Minutes of Sept. 8, 2011 as amended. The motion**
30 **passed unanimously.**
31

32 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

33 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

34 1. Ravine Restoration (west of Field 7A).
35

36 Ms. O'Hare said she will go out to Field 7A after the killing frost. Commissioner
37 Saunders asked if she could accompany Ms. O'Hare to Field 7A. Acting Chair Heffernon
38 said she received a report from Mark Kasinskis which said he has not been doing much
39 work in the fields, but there has been a lot of behind the scenes work done such as
40 making signs and working on the Interpretive Trail draft. Ms. O'Hare said Mr. Kasinskis
41 is asking for an extension to the end of the year. The Commission agreed to the
42 extension.
43

44 2. DEP Recreational Trails Grant Program

45 a. Work Progress – report, Trails Committee.
46
47

1 Acting Chair Heffernon said she received a report from Mark Kasinskas which said he
2 has not been doing much work in the fields, but there has been a lot of behind the
3 scenes work done such as making signs and working on the Interpretive Trail draft. Ms.
4 O'Hare said Mr. Kasinskas is asking for an extension to the end of the year. The
5 Commission agreed to the extension.

6
7
8 b. Pink Trail – major crossing
9

10
11 *Acting Chair Heffernon requested Ms. O'Hare ask the Public Utilities where they get their*
12 *poles and how much they cost if they will not bring the poles in.*

13
14 c. Parking lots, entranceway, kiosks.
15

16 Ms. O'Hare said a scheduled meeting between herself, Vice-Chair Heffernon and Don
17 Roe, Program Planner, did not take place. Commissioner Saunders suggested the use of
18 boulders for the edge of the parking areas be considered.

19
20 d. Hurricane tree damage – report Trails Committee.
21

22 Acting Chair Heffernon said she believed most of the damage was taken care of. She
23 said she received a call from John Gawlak who offered assistance. Ms. Saunders said
24 Public Works had taken care of two damaged trees on the closed part of Tyler Mill Road
25 and Maltby Lane. Ms. Lendler said she reported tree damage on the ridge. She said
26 there were two trails on the third ridge and one going up to the one ridge that had tree
27 damage. Commissioner Ryan reported tree damage at Galko. He said Chairman Borne
28 had asked him to take a look at the damage. He said there was a pine tree that had
29 fallen near the Girl Scout bridge that was being held up on an angle by a walnut tree.
30 *Ms. O'Hare will write a memo requesting that Henry McCully of Public Works take a look*
31 *at this damage.*

32
33 **3. Boundary Marking**
34

35 Ms. O'Hare said she contacted the Engineering Department on Thursday but was told
36 they have not done anything since New England Drive which goes past the Purple Trail.
37 She said now that the leaves have fallen, the Engineering Department will be addressing
38 areas on their waiting list to post including Celestial Drive.

39
40 **4. Hunting – change in location to obtain daily permits.**
41

42 Ms. O'Hare said it was brought to her attention that Mike's Barbershop was no longer
43 selling the daily permits for hunting. She said Don Roe contacted the State and informed
44 them that the Permit Area Map on the website should reflect that Uncle B's Bait and
45 Tackle Shop on South Colony Road would now be selling the permits.

46 *She said Mr. Roe would also be revising the signs.*
47

48 **5. Disposal of carcasses**

1
2 Ms. O'Hare said Public Works clean the roads around town when someone hits a deer.
3 She said they are looking for a location to dispose of the carcasses properly.
4 *Acting Chair Heffernon requested that Ms. O'Hare ask Public Works how they currently*
5 *dispose of the animal carcasses.*
6

7 6. Protection of traprock resources

8

9 Ms. Saunders said she observed a person stealing the trap rock. She said the person
10 had 80 rocks in his truck. Ms. Saunders said the person was made to put the rocks
11 back. She also reported there have been tracks in and out of that area on Tyler Mill
12 Road. Ms. Saunders said she had turned this matter over to Chairman Borne.
13

14 7. Mowing inside Preserve

15

16 Ms. O'Hare said that Public Works mows 15 feet from the pavement of any road and
17 leaves a broken "toothpick" effect, which she believes should not be mowed in this
18 manner inside the preserve. Ms. Saunders said Mr. McCully mowed sections and then
19 stopped. She said he mowed Tamarac Swamp Road only from the log house to the
20 corner. She said on Field 18A the entire hedgerow has been shredded and opened up to
21 the field in spots. This area is a documented viable bird habitat and the field is a
22 grassland bird habitat.
23

24 *Ms. O'Hare will send a memo to Public Works stating that a different mowing technique*
25 *should be applied inside the Preserve beginning with Field 18A at the railroad trestle.*
26

27 8. ATV use- report.

28

29 In her photos which were passed around, Ms. Saunders said she had gotten the license
30 plates and clear faces of ATV riders. Ms. O'Hare spoke about a copy of a summary
31 enforcement report from Lt. William Wright which was sent to Mayor Dickinson from
32 Chief Dortenzio which indicates an increase in activity in attempting to enforce ATV use.
33

34 **B. Open Space Property at 75 Jenna Road**

35 1. Trespass – dumping.

36

37 Ms. O'Hare said she has yet to receive any feedback from the Police regarding this
38 matter.
39

40 **C. Field 4C, Managed Open Space – boundary matter – status.**

41

42 Ms. O'Hare said she had nothing new to report but said the Yale student had completed
43 her work and received the Mayor's permission to store experiment cages in the white
44 barn. Ms. O'Hare said the Yale student indicated she would like to resume her project
45 in the spring and will be submitting a copy of her report.
46

47 **D. Invasive Species Eradication**

1 1. Long-term invasive species management program – update, D.
2 Saunders.

3
4 Ms. Saunders presented her report and said four more Paulonia trees were found. She
5 said the heads of the knotweed at the dumpsite on Tamarac Road were cut. She said
6 she would try pouring a salt/vinegar mix on the knotweed in a few weeks. She said they
7 have been working more on the bittersweet. She spoke about exceptional winterberry
8 and witch hazel which is blooming along Tamarac Swamp Road. Ms. Saunders
9 suggested thinning the maple saplings growing through them. She submitted to Ms.
10 O'Hare the latest plant inventory for Tyler Mill.

11
12 2. Tyler Mill Road – Entranceway work.

13
14 Ms. Saunders said one island of knotweed was done, but the other island was not.

15
16 **E. Volunteer Work Program – report, K. Ryan.**

17
18 Mr. Ryan spoke about a young man looking for an Eagle Scout project. He said in the
19 future, we should have a “shovel-ready” project for Eagle Scouts. The Commissioners
20 discussed several project ideas, including the possibility of installing a split-fence around
21 the vernal pools or constructing signage.

22
23 **3. SIGNAGE – Nothing to report.**

24
25 **4. PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

26 **A. Other – Nothing to report.**

27
28 **5. Open Space Plan, 1999 – update, D. Saunders – Nothing to report.**

29
30 **6. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

31 **A. Community Day – Sept. 17, report – M. Heffernon**

32
33 Acting Chair Heffernon spoke about the Conservation Commission table she and Ms.
34 Saunders hosted at Community Day.

35
36 **7. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

37 **A. Field 18A – mowing of Tamarac Swamp Rd. R.O.W. –covered under 2A (7)**
38 **“Mowing inside Preserve.”**

39
40 **B. Lease Cycle 2012-2016 – recommendation for one-year lease extension.**

41
42 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Arsenault second by Commissioner**
43 **Saunders where the Conservation Commission agrees to send the**
44 **recommendation to the Mayor to request the Town Council consider a one-**
45 **year lease extension on pertinent Farmland Lease property fields at its**
46 **November 15, 2011 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.**

47
48 **C. Farmland Lease Committee – report, D. Saunders**

1
2 Ms. Saunders distributed the Farmland Lease Committee Report. She said the
3 Committee came up with a few recommendations. She said on (1) Fields 11A-11B-
4 Tamarac Swamp Road, the current lessee has declined the lease extension of one year
5 so the lease will expire on 12/31/11. The FLC recommends leasing the Fields 11A and
6 11B for one year so they be in the same lease cycle as the majority of the fields. Ms.
7 Saunders said regarding (2) Field 6C pasture, the FLC recommended it be added to the
8 mowing plan. The FLC recommended on (3) leaving Field 7A idle and mowing this field
9 in January when it is frozen because of the autumn olive growing there and putting the
10 Field in the 2013-2017 cycle. The FLC recommended (4) the Sugarbush area off
11 Anderson Road should go out for a one-year trial lease for 2012. Ms. O'Hare said
12 Engineering will have to make a map. Ms. O'Hare asked the Commission to articulate
13 reasons for initiating a sugar bush lease. Reasons included promoting agriculture, to
14 maintain a presence in that area of Tyler Mill, and to steward the land.

15
16 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Saunders second by Commissioner Ryan**
17 **to adopt the Recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Farmland Lease**
18 **Committee Special Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2011. The motion**
19 **passed unanimously.**

20
21 **8. Correspondence/Reports**

22 **A. CT Northeast Organic Farming Association – publications,**
23 membership.

24
25 Ms. O'Hare distributed free publications from NOFA and the Commission can get as
26 many as needed for programs. Acting Chair Heffernon requested the two copies of one
27 of the publications for the Library. Ms. O'Hare said this group is also promoting organic
28 turf care on their website "Promoting Organic Turf Care.org." She said there is an
29 annual gathering at University of Connecticut on December 6, 2011.

30
31 **B. Dept. of Engineering, Wallace Dam Fishway – commenced work.**
32 Ms. O'Hare said she had received notice that construction of the Fishway is underway.

33
34 **C. CLEAR Webinar – Farm-Friendly Plans & Regulations, Oct. 18, 2-3**
35 p.m.

36 Ms. O'Hare said this Webinar would be geared towards zoning regulations and the
37 promotion of farming.

38
39 Ms. Saunders submitted a copy of American Farmland Trust's new document, "Farmland
40 Connections" about using or leasing farm land. She had submitted information about
41 Wallingford for the publication.

42
43 **D. QRWA Bioassessment Program – report, M. Heffernon and D.**
44 Saunders.

45
46 Acting Chair Heffernon said the Quinnipiac River Watershed Association, (QRWA) had
47 received a grant from 3M to perform bio-assessments of the QRWA and were looking for
48 volunteers. She said herself, Mr. Lathrop and Ms. Saunders attended the training but

1 more volunteers are needed for an event on Oct. 22 at the Muddy River to determine
2 the health of the water.

3 **E. Invitation – Film Screening, “Melancholia Fantastic”,** (shot at Fresh
4 Meadows Swamp at Cheshire Road property) – Whitney Humanities Center, 54 Wall
5 Street – Oct. 28 7-9 p.m.

6
7 Acting Chair Heffernon talked about the film screening. She said part of the film was
8 shot in the Library and Wallingford’s open spaces.

9
10 Acting Chair Heffernon brought in the newsletter of the Long Island Sound study. She
11 spoke about an e-mail she had sent addressed to the Conservation Commission, the
12 Land Trust and the Recycling Committee. She spoke about receiving a \$7,000 plus
13 grant from the Wallingford Community Women, formerly the Junior Women’s Club, to
14 promote environmental literacy in Wallingford youth through the Library. She spoke
15 about various activities being planned. She said a Nature’s Corner will be set up in the
16 Children’s Room of the Library.

17
18 Ms. Lendler spoke about “Roots and Shoots” an environmental organization for children
19 that she was involved with in the schools that has a similar mission.

20
21 Ms. O’Hare distributed registration forms for CT Association of Conservation and Inland
22 Wetlands Commissions’ Conference, Nov. 12, 2011 at Mountain Ridge.

23
24 *Commissioners were instructed to register directly to be re-imbursed later.*

25
26 **9. NEXT MEETING – November 10, 2011**

27
28 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

29
30 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Ryan second by Commissioner Arsenault**
31 **to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

32
33
34 Respectfully submitted,
35 Cynthia A. Kleist
36 Recording Secretary.