

1 WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2 REGULAR MEETING
3 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2011
4 7 p.m.
5 TOWN HALL, BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
6 45 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WALLINGFORD, CT
7

8 **MINUTES**
9

10 **PRESENT:** Jeffrey Borne; Chairman, Mary Heffernon; Vice Chairperson, Ken Ryan; Dianne Saunders;
11 Dianne Lendler; Tom Pietras; John Lathrop; Carl Arsenaault; and Erin O'Hare, Environmental and Natural
12 Resources Planner.

13 **ABSENT:** Jim Pyskaty
14

15 Chairman Borne convened the meeting at 7:06 p.m. As Cindy Kleist is away, Ms. O'Hare acted as
16 Recording Secretary.
17

18 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
19

20 **A. Minutes, October 13, 2011**
21

22 Page 1 - Delete from line 38, beginning with "Acting Chair" to line 42, inclusive.

23 Page 2 - Add after line 29, "There are also two very large trees down near the new trail at the top of the
24 knoll."

25 Page 3 - line 18: replace "Mr. McCully" with "Public Works".

26 Page 3 - line 21: replace "viable" with "migratory".

27 Page 5 - line 4: replace "She" with "Conservation Commission"

28 Page 5 - line 28: delete the words "Promoting Organic Turf Care.org".

29 Page 6 - line 12: after Recycling Committee, add: "notifying them that the library had received" and
30 delete, "She spoke about receiving" here.

31 Page 6 - line 14: after "Library", add, "in partnership with each of the above groups."
32

33 **MOTION:** A motion by Mary Heffernon, seconded by John Lathrop to accept the Minutes as corrected.
34 The motion passed unanimously.
35

36 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**
37

38 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

39 1. Ravine Restoration (west of Field 7A)
40

41 Ms. O'Hare indicated she did not do the field work yet. *She will soon.*
42

43 2. DEP Recreational Trails Grant Program

44 a. Work Progress - report, Trails Committee
45

46 Trails Committee Chair Mary Heffernon read Ferrucci and Walicki's reports dated October 26. She met
47 with Mark Kasinskas Friday to discuss some elements. She had agreed with his suggested re-routing of
48 the Purple Trail in the vicinity where the existing trail goes off Town land and onto private property. The
49 White Trail will be relocated to the west to avoid the vernal pools. She read the Ferrucci and Walicki
50 progress report that came in today. The firm has offered to make an assessment of recent tree damage
51 from storms for Tyler Mill. *Mary will ask Mark to clarify the proposed work and she will report back.*
52

53 b. Pink Trail - major crossing
54

55 Ms. O'Hare has not done this task yet regarding the Electric Division and the proposed telephone pole
56 crossing of the Muddy River. *She will for the next meeting.*

1
2 c. Parking lots, entranceway, kiosks
3

4 Ms. Heffernon, Don Roe, and Ms. O'Hare met as planned and decided to request the Water Division's
5 participation in creating a plan for the entranceway to Tyler Mill Preserve. *Ms. O'Hare will act on this.*
6 Ms. Heffernon reported she met with the Mayor and the Commission is to accommodate the horse trailers
7 in the plan in the current location.
8

9 3. Boundary marking
10

11 Ms. O'Hare indicated there was no progress to report.
12

13 4. Mowing inside the Preserve
14

15 Ms. Saunders reported on Public Works mowing practices used along Field 18A on Tamarac Swamp
16 Road which opens up too much of the hedgerow. Since then, she indicated they have made a "push-off
17 area" for snow and, in the process, dumped screenings into the edge of the woods. Ms. O'Hare met
18 recently with Public Works to review possible changes to current practices. Ms. Saunders objected to the
19 use of road salt in the Preserve. Ms. O'Hare explained that the fire trucks need to access Peach Hill Road
20 by going through the Preserve as they cannot pass under the RXR trestle on Tamarac Swamp Road and so
21 the brush needs to be trimmed back away. She indicated that Henry McCully would like to see a
22 emergency access created through Warren William's property and Field 18A which would allow the
23 closure of Tamarac Swamp Road at the bus turn-around.
24

25 5. Tree damage from October 29-30 snow storm
26

27 After this weekend, the volunteers, Stewards of Tyler Mill, will complete an inventory of downed trees
28 after the mountain bikers have done some work. Ms. Saunders reported on tree damage status in Tyler
29 Mill. She noted a lot of "hangers" in the trees. Ms. Lendler reported two huge trees down; one with a red
30 blaze on it. This is a heavily used trail.
31

32 6. Signage
33

34 Ms. O'Hare reported the "Uncle B's Bait & Tackle" sign revision regarding hunting permits will be up
35 soon. Ms. Saunders noted that there is no big Preserve Regulation sign on the Tamarac Swamp Road
36 entrance. Ms. Heffernon reported on a CFPA article about hikers and hunters co-existing.
37

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

39 1. Trespass - dumping
40

41 Ms. O'Hare reported there has been no response yet from Community Police.
42

43 **C. Invasive Species Eradication**

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

45 Ms. Saunders reported a technique of girdling an invasive tree and applying chemicals there. She wants
46 to try it with vinegar solution. She is awaiting CT Ag Stations advice on this technique to make sure it
47 would not inadvertently harm birds.
48

49 **D. Volunteer Work Program - report, K. Ryan**
50

51 Ken Ryan reported a "shovel-ready" project is now available: fencing of the vernal pools *as per* a design
52 provided by Ms. Heffernon. *He will contact Eagle Scouts about this project.*
53

54 The Commission shared reports about the power outage.
55

1 Ms. Heffernon reported on the signs she would like to have made for the Butterfly Meadow which are to
2 read, "Conservation Area - Please Do Not Mow". *She will have them add "Wallingford Conservation*
3 *Commission - 294-2093" to the sign*.
4

5 **MOTION: Mary Heffernon - to purchase signs for the Butterfly Meadow**

6 **SECONDED: John Lathrop**

7 **VOTE: Unanimous**

8
9 **3. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

10
11 **A. Environmental Literacy Grant**

12
13 Ms. Heffernon reported that as part of the Grant, the Conservation Commission, the Land Trust and the
14 Recycling Committee will host hikes and different outdoor events with dates to be scheduled later. She
15 shared a notice from Yale School of Forestry & Environmental graduate students regarding "strategies on
16 land conservation" to assist towns with stewardship, mission support, etc. Sponsors must be available 45
17 minutes a week to meet with the students. *She will submit an indication of interest under the*
18 *Environmental Literacy Grant*.
19

20 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

21
22 **A. Field 18A - mowing of Tamarac Swamp Road R.O.W.**

23
24 (Taken up earlier.)
25

26 **B. Fields 4A & 19A - trespasses & loose cows**

27
28 Ms. Saunders reported on trespass activities (cutting fence to make a pass-through). She met hunters
29 accessing private land through cut fences on Fields 4A and 19A. The cow t- which was loose on and off
30 for three weeks - was required to be removed and was then removed. Ms. Saunders also reported on
31 trucks driving off road into the woods to dump deer carcasses in Tyler Mill.
32

33 **C. Lease Cycle 2012-2016 - recommendation for one-year lease extension.**

34
35 Ms. O'Hare reported the Commission's recommendations were forwarded to the Mayor on November 8
36 for the Town Council's consideration for the November 15th agenda. *She will advise Chairman Borne*
37 *and Ms. Saunders if it makes the consent agenda or if their attendance at the Council meeting will be*
38 *required*.
39

40 **D. Farmland Lease Committee - report, D. Saunders**

41
42 Ms. Saunders indicated there was no Committee Meeting or report this month. She shared a photo of
43 huge oak tree that fell on Field 7C.
44

45 **5. MEETING SCHEDULE - 2012**

46
47 The Commission approved the Meeting Schedule as drafted.
48

49 **6. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

50
51 **A. UCONN CLEAR Webinar - Conservation Mapping Tools; November 8**

52 Ms. O'Hare reported on this excellent webinar she attended which is available for all on the CLEAR
53 website.
54

55 **B. QRWA - Bioassessment Program - report**

1 Ms. Heffernon and Mr. Lathrop collected the first day at Muddy River and Ms. Saunders collected the
2 second day at Wharton Brook. Ms. Saunders showed a photo of a darter which is a sign of a healthy
3 stream collected behind Doolittle Park just south of the footbridge. She reported clusters of red
4 roundworms in the stream.
5

6 **C. Fresh Meadow Swamp - box turtles and Wallingford Land Trust proposal**

7 Ms. O'Hare reported on a concentration of Eastern box turtles occurring on the edge of Fresh Meadow
8 Swamp near Fawn Drive and Nathan's Path. They are a State-listed Species of Concern. The presence of
9 a nesting colony is significant. Ms. O'Hare reported on the Land Trust's IWWC application to install a
10 boardwalk trail in Fresh Meadow Swamp off Rosick Road which someday could connect to the abutting
11 Town property.
12

13 **D. Salt Marsh Diary - speaker at Wallingford Library, November 14**

14 Several felt this would be a worthwhile program.
15

16 **E. CACIWC Environmental Conference, November 12, Mountain Ridge**

17 Ms. O'Hare requested registrants ask for reimbursements later on due to the late date.
18

19 **F. "The Habitat", CACIWC Newsletter**

20 Ms. O'Hare indicated the Commission had received only one copy of the newsletter total due to a mailing
21 issue. *The Commission needs to request her office to make copies or read it on the CACIWC web site.*
22

23 **G. "Celebrating the International Year of Forests" – Yale, November 22.**

24 Ms. O'Hare showed the brochure for anyone interest5ed in attending. Chairman Borne will be attending.
25

26 **H. Community & Natural Resources Planning Program - UCONN CLEAR – Nov. & Dec.**

27 Workshops

28 Ms. O'Hare showed the notice on these workshops and recommended one in particular on natural
29 resourced- based planning to be held November 15.
30

31 Ken Ryan reported on an environmental film series.
32

33 **7. NEXT MEETING - December 8, 2011**

34
35 Ms. Saunders and Ms. Lendler are eager for the next Open Space Users Group Meeting and have
36 discussed meeting dates with John Gawlak, Director, Parks & Recreation. *They will report on this at the*
37 *next meeting.*
38

39 **8. ADJOURNMENT**

40
41 Chairman Borne adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.
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43
44

45 Respectfully submitted,
46

47
48 Erin O'Hare, Acting Recording Secretary