

1  
2 Wallingford Conservation Commission  
3 Regular Meeting  
4 January 13, 2011  
5 7 p.m.  
6 Town Hall-Basement Conference Room  
7 45 South Main Street  
8 Wallingford, CT  
9

10  
11 **MINUTES**  
12

13 **PRESENT:** Chairman Jeffrey Borne; Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners John  
14 Lathrop; James Pyskaty; Dianne Saunders; Kenneth Ryan; Thomas Pietras; Dianne  
15 Lendler; Recording Secretary Cynthia Kleist; Don Roe, Program Planner Town of  
16 Wallingford.  
17 **Absent:** Commissioner Carl Arsenault.  
18

19 Chairman Borne called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.  
20  
21

22 **1. Approval of Minutes**  
23 **A. Minutes, November 18, 2010**  
24

25 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Heffernon second by Commissioner**  
26 **Ryan to approve the November 18, 2010 minutes with the following**  
27 **corrections. The motion passed unanimously.**  
28

29 On page 2, Ms. Saunders said that "double gate" should be changed to "wide gate," and  
30 instead of "Public Works" in should be "Water Division."  
31 Ms. Saunders said that on the top of Page 3, "Ms. Saunders to prepare field maps"  
32 should be changed to "Farmland Lease Committee to prepare field maps."  
33 In the third paragraph, "new proposed language for the leases and it would be ready in  
34 January" should be changed to "maintenance language."  
35 Under Number 4 "Letter to Lessees" "as monitoring is being done as planned" should  
36 be added to the end of the sentence.  
37

38 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**  
39 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**  
40

- 41 1. Ravine Restoration-NOTHING NEW TO REPORT.
- 42
- 43 2. DEP Recreational Trails Grant
  - 44 a. Bid Opening, Feb. 1, 2011
  - 45 b. IWWC application submittal
- 46

1 Ms. Heffernon said the bids have gone out and will be opened Feb. 1. She said we will  
2 have to go in front of the Inland Wetlands Commission for permits on some of the  
3 stream crossings and culverts.

4 Chairman Borne said the reason is some of these trail improvements will cross some  
5 regulated wetlands and watercourses.

6  
7 3. Vernal Pool Fencing Options  
8

9 Ms. Heffernon said the jury is still out on what will happen there.

10  
11 4. Kiosks – NO DISCUSSION.  
12

13 5. Tamarac Swamp work – report, C. Arsenault. – TABLED.  
14

15 **B. Farmland Lease Properties Program**  
16

17 1. Farmland Lease Properties Committee- report, D. Saunders.  
18

19 Ms. Saunders passed out a report from the WCC Farmland Lease Committee. She said  
20 the Committee made a write-up of the Oct. 29 site visits. She said every time a field is  
21 looked at there are different issues. She suggested the Committee meet with Erin  
22 O'Hare, Environmental and Natural Resources Planner to go through the proposed  
23 maintenance memo and come to the Commission with the memo again. Ms. Saunders  
24 said if Ms. O'Hare does not have time in January, the Commission may just have to  
25 move forward and have the Commission decide on this again, as they did months ago.  
26 She said everyone was in agreement with the maintenance to be done, but the one  
27 missing component was the maps. She said the best thing would be for our Committee  
28 to regroup and meet with Ms. O'Hare and get the report out by Feb. 1.  
29

30 MONITORING REPORTS-NOTHNG DUE AT THIS TIME.  
31

32 EROSION CONTROL-Ms. Saunders reported significant problems with erosion on fields  
33 2A and 2B. She said the town did the work on the catch basins and the storm water  
34 detention basins on North Branford Rd. She said she reported this condition on Dec. 16  
35 to Ms. O'Hare. Ms. Saunders passed around photos she took of the affected areas.  
36 She said because of the storm on December 12, the detention basins on the opposite  
37 side of fields 1A, 1B and 1C. have blown out into the woods to the reservoir. She said  
38 the new detention basins, the side of the road on the farmland lease side, 1A 1B and 1C  
39 are fine, there is not a drop of sediment. She said this is pretty much the situation on  
40 7A, it blows out the back. Ms. Saunders said in front of 1B and at Mr. Cooke's field, the  
41 basins work fine.

42 Ms. Saunders suggested leaving a copy of the report with Ms. O'Hare to address this  
43 situation with Engineering. Ms. Saunders reported motor vehicle damage to fields from  
44 ATV's, motor vehicles, skimobiles, and construction vehicles from various contractors  
45 with the Town.  
46

47 2. Fields 1A, 1C, 5A, 7E and 7F-TABLED UNTIL FEB 10, 2011 MEETING.  
48

1           **C. Invasive Species Eradication**

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

4  
5 Ms. Saunders said there was nothing new to report. She spoke about the new Asian  
6 Stink Bugs.

7  
8           2. Site for annual expenditure.

9  
10 Ms. Saunders said the Commission had talked about the little structures by the dam. She  
11 said if the trails are being revitalized, it would look better down there. She said she was  
12 waiting to hear back from the Rod and Gun Club.

13  
14 Chairman Borne spoke about the dumping in the Muddy River. Ms. Saunders said the  
15 police are investigating and have the identities of the people.

16  
17 Under Property Management, Chairman Borne said a person who had been walking on  
18 High Hill Road had contacted him to report a lot of dumping. Chairman Borne said the  
19 resident was contacting the Town and wanted to get volunteers together to clean up the  
20 area in the spring and would like to have the Conservation Commission to take a look.  
21 He said that was Northeast Utility property.

22  
23 Ms. Lendler spoke about a person or persons throwing gallons of wine on the side of the  
24 road all over East Wallingford near the reservoir that has been going on for two years.  
25 She said she has picked up 35 bottles. Ms. Lendler said she spoke to the police but they  
26 were not interested. She said she was concerned about children drinking the wine or  
27 bicyclists being hurt on the glass.

28  
29           **D. Volunteer Work Program-** report, K. Ryan.

30  
31 Mr. Ryan spoke about the Vo-Ag students being required to put in a certain amount of  
32 volunteer hours. Ms. Saunders said one good idea might be to have children walk the  
33 Muddy River down from where they did the knotweed project to the bridge in the spring  
34 and report where the knotweed is located so as to save the river from being inundated.

35  
36           **3. PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

37  
38           A. Report: Choate Boathouse.

39  
40 Ms. Heffernon said believed the Senior Center started this initiative. She said the Center  
41 had written a letter stating they would like the property kept in mind if the Town ever  
42 acquired it. She said the Center had asked other groups that might have an interest to  
43 sign off on it. Ms. Heffernon requested the Commission vote to have the Chairman sign  
44 off on the letter which would show our support.

45  
46 Chairman Borne said the Commission did recommend the purchase of the property on  
47 the edge of Community Lake and more or less adjacent to the boathouse. He said it was  
48 thought that it would be good to just have some access points since there was a lot of

1 activity about restoring the lake in some way and the potential for a loop trail around  
2 there. He said if the Town were to acquire the boathouse, we know we have the liability  
3 of the building.

4 Ms. Saunders said the Town could always take that building down. She said the Town  
5 wanted the land for the linear trail. She said Oak Street to Pent Highway is in the plan  
6 for the linear trail. Chairman Borne said we should make sure that we say that the value  
7 is the land, not in the building. Mr. Roe said he was not sure Choate was marketing this  
8 property.

9  
10 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Heffernon second by Commissioner**  
11 **Lathrop to authorize Chairman Borne on behalf of the Conservation**  
12 **Commission to sign the letter of support for the town acquiring the Choate**  
13 **Boathouse property if it becomes feasible. The motion passed unanimously.**

14  
15 **4. OPEN SPACE PLAN, 1999-update, D. Saunders – No Report.**

16  
17  
18 **5 PUBLIC OUTREACH**

19  
20 Ms. Saunders said she belongs to Working Lands Alliance, which is a non-profit  
21 organization that deals with trying to make viable farmland for sustainable agriculture in  
22 Connecticut. She said American Farmland Trust puts out these municipal guides. She  
23 said the last guide was published two years ago and dealt with ways in which  
24 municipalities can support agriculture in Connecticut.

25  
26 She said Jiff Martin who was at Working Lands Alliance has now gone to Sustainable  
27 Agriculture at UConn and works with the Farm Bureau and all of the farmers from  
28 UConn's point of view to do new techniques to make farming more viable, more  
29 effective and conservation friendly.

30  
31 Ms. Saunders said she received an email from Ms. Martin requesting information on  
32 deep zone tillage. She said the new guide being put together is on deep zone tillage not  
33 on leasing farmland. Ms. Saunders said Ms. Martin had gotten information from towns  
34 across Connecticut and prepared a draft report.

35 Ms. Saunders said she corrected some statistics involving Wallingford and sent the draft  
36 report over to Ms. O'Hare.

37  
38 Ms. Saunders said the paragraph would need to state what the town thinks about deep  
39 zone tillage or what our experience has been without being too subjective.

40 Ms. Saunders prepared a draft but added that this should be approved by the  
41 Commission before it goes any further. She said this would be due by January 18. Ms.  
42 Saunders said the main issue is whether the Commission agrees with the statements  
43 and then Ms. Martin can take out what she wants.

44  
45 Ms. Saunders said we started with field 5A two or three years ago and it was favorable,  
46 that is why we went with the deep zone tillage with other fields and we have now had a  
47 full year of this with other fields. Chairman Borne asked if we should say this is early on  
48 because we do not have years of experience with this.

1 Ms. Saunders suggested adding the year 2010.

2  
3 Mr. Pietras said the report sounded good. Chairman Borne asked how many  
4 municipalities participate in Farmland leasing program. Ms. Saunders said most towns  
5 have it now, including Middletown, Durham, Cheshire, North Branford and the state is  
6 also starting to implement this on the property.

7 Ms. Saunders suggested that if people want to look at this report and then come to a  
8 consensus in a few days, it is basically do we agree with what has happened out there.  
9 Chairman Borne said his feeling is that we don't endorse this as a Conservation  
10 Commission at this point, and suggested that if the Commission wishes to read the  
11 report, have Ms. Saunders email the report to everyone.

12  
13 Ms. Lendler said that Ms. O'Hare had asked her if she would attend the Connecticut  
14 Forest and Parks Association Family Walk training on January 29. She said in May she  
15 would be traveling to Norway to attend a hiking program.

16  
17 Chairman Borne said he was contacted by a gentleman who has an art gallery in town  
18 who suggested the Commission work with him on putting together an art display  
19 featuring the Town's open space as part of an Earth Day program.

20  
21 **6. NEXT MEETING** – February 10, 2011.

22  
23 **7. ADJOURNMENT**

24  
25 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Heffernon second by Commissioner**  
26 **Lathrop to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

27  
28  
29 Respectfully submitted,

30  
31 Cynthia A. Kleist  
32 Recording Secretary