

1 WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
2 REGULAR MEETING  
3 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011  
4 7 P.M.  
5 TOWN HALL, BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM  
6 45 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
7 WALLINGFORD, CT

8  
9 **MINUTES**

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

15  
16 **NOT PRESENT:** Chairman Jeff Borne; Commissioner Dianne Lendler.

17  
18 Vice-Chair Heffernon, acting as Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m.

19  
20 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

21 **A. Minutes, November 10, 2011**

22  
23 On page 3, line 29, remove the letter "t" after the word "cow."  
24 The Commissioners thanked Ms. Kleist, Recording Secretary, for transcribing the  
25 monthly minutes.

26  
27 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner Ryan**  
28 **to accept the Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2011 as amended. The**  
29 **motion passed unanimously.**

30  
31 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

32 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

33  
34 1. Ravine Restoration (west of Field 7A) – Nothing to Report  
35 Vice-Chair Heffernon mentioned the editorial commending the Farmland Lease Program  
36 which appeared recently in the Meriden Record-Journal.

37  
38 2. DEP Recreational Trails Grant Program

39 a. Work progress – report, Trails Committee

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41 Vice-Chair Heffernon reported on Ferrucci and Walicki's work progress. All work has  
42 been completed on the Purple Trail. She said the entire trail was blazed and two signs  
43 installed along Tyler Mill Road at both ends of the trail. She noted that the work on the  
44 trail included a short re-route to eliminate an approximate 250 - foot section of trail.

45  
46 The re-routed section of trail has also been blazed. All work has been completed on the  
47 Green Trail which has been blazed and a sign installed along Tyler Mill Road. Signage  
48 and blazing associated with the Interpretive Trail has not been completed. All work has

1 been completed on the Blue Trail which has been blazed and a sign installed along  
2 Woodhouse Avenue. All blazing work has been completed on the White Trail. Drainage  
3 improvement, tree clearing and blazing work have begun on the Yellow Trail. Work has  
4 been completed from Woodhouse Road to the Yellow/Red Trail merge. Drainage  
5 improvement and tree clearing work has begun on the Red Trail.

6  
7 A trail head sign for the northern Red Trail loop has been installed along Tamarac  
8 Swamp Road. Work continues on tasks associated with the fabrication of both  
9 footbridges and remaining trail head signs.

10  
11 All signs have been completed and will be installed as work is completed along subject  
12 trails. The draft version of the 16-page Interpretive Trail Guide has been completed and  
13 provided to Commission and staff for comment.

14 *Commissioners should forward comments to her as soon as possible.*

15  
16  
17 Extensive drainage and wetland crossing work will take place the week of December  
18 12. Ms. O'Hare indicated she would check all wetland permit crossings then.

19  
20 Vice-Chair Heffernon requested the contract be extended until January 31 to allow time  
21 to check all the work.

22  
23 Ms. O'Hare indicated that the contract deadline also has to be adjusted to  
24 accommodate spring work on invasive plant species removal.

25  
26 b. Pink Trail – major crossing.

27  
28 Ms. O'Hare said she said the Wallingford Electric Division, contingent upon a PUC  
29 approval letter, could donate 45 foot telephone poles and drop them off at the side of  
30 Tyler Mill Road.

31  
32 Poles could be transported in by helicopter. Using trees to be dropped near the crossing  
33 or using a suspension footbridge was discussed.

34 Ms. Saunders said she preferred footstones to be installed because of the pristine  
35 condition of the area and the amount of wildlife.

36  
37 c. Parking lots, entranceway, kiosks.

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39 Ms. O'Hare reported that she and Don Roe, Program Planner, had visited the five  
40 entrances to Tyler Mill Preserve to assess improvement possibilities regarding parking,  
41 signage, kiosk placement, and blocking ATV access. The next step would be a revisit to  
42 be conducted by Mr. Roe, the Engineering Department and Traffic Department to  
43 discuss design issues.

44  
45 Some Commissioners felt the words "Park Closes At Sunset" should be bigger on the  
46 signs. The Commissioners also discussed the possibility of using telephone poles with  
47 which to erect a sign at the entranceway of Tyler Mill and/or the entranceway at  
48 Tamarac Swamp Road.

1 Ms. O'Hare said Public Works are to construct the kiosks.

2  
3 3. Boundary marking – Nothing to report.

4  
5 4. Mowing – Nothing to report.

6  
7 5. Red Trail tree damage – Nothing to report.

8  
9 6. Signage – Nothing to report.

10  
11 **B. Open Space Property at 75 Jenna Road**

12 1. Trespass – dumping – Nothing to report.

13  
14 **C. Invasive Species Eradication**

15 1. Long-term invasive species management program – update, D.  
16 Saunders – Nothing to report.

17  
18 **D. Volunteer Work Program** - report, K. Ryan.

19  
20 1. "Quinnipiac's Big Event" volunteers.

21  
22 Mr. Ryan said some trees were cleared at the Fresh Meadow Swamp at the Cheshire  
23 Road property for Tessa's Trail. All that remains is blazing, signage and setting a date  
24 for dedication of the trail. Mr. Ryan spoke about the possibility of fencing in the vernal  
25 pool near the White Trail and getting Eagle Scouts to do this project which could include  
26 an amphibian survey if wanted.

27  
28 The Commissioners discussed ideas in preparation for the Quinnipiac Big Event on  
29 Saturday, April 14. He said Quinnipiac students are looking for group projects. The  
30 Commissioners discussed trail maintenance on the Yellow Trail at its head at Vietnam  
31 Veterans Memorial Park as a timely project for the Quinnipiac students to do.

32  
33 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Pyskaty second by Commissioner**  
34 **Lathrop to put in an application for trail maintenance as part of the**  
35 **Quinnipiac University Big Event to take place on April 14. The motion passed**  
36 **unanimously.**

37  
38 **3. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

39 1. Environmental Literacy Grant – Nothing to report.

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41 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

42 **A. Lease Cycle 2012-2016** – one-year lease extensions & proposed bids.

43  
44 Ms. O'Hare said the Law Department had directed her to send out formal letters to all of  
45 the farmers whose leases ended Dec. 31, 2011 asking if they wanted a one-year  
46 extension. She said all but one of the farmers responded differently than when asked  
47 informally in October. *Ms. O'Hare will contact the Law Department to prepare amended*  
48 *leases.*

1 *Ms. O'Hare will contact the Dept. of Agriculture to obtain the Farm Lease packet criteria*  
2 *which the State uses to evaluate the proposals on State land as requested by Ms.*  
3 *Saunders.*

4 Ms. Saunders would like revised lease documents for the two-envelope bid ready by  
5 June.

6  
7 **B. Farmland Lease Committee Report** – report, D. Saunders -  
8 Nothing to report.

9  
10 **5. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

11  
12 **A. CACIWC Environmental Conference, MountainRidge** – reports –  
13 Nothing to report.

14  
15  
16 **B. “Celebrating the International Year of Forests”**, Yale U. Nov. 22  
17 – report. Chairman Borne was not present to report.

18  
19 Vice-Chair Heffernon set up a meeting with the Trails Committee for Wednesday,  
20 January 25, 2012 to discuss trail brochures. Ms. Saunders passed around trail brochure  
21 samples from CFPA.

22  
23 Ms. Saunders said she attended the CFPA Steward training on December 3. Ms.  
24 Saunders suggested having an organized work party day event after people had  
25 completed the CFPA chainsaw training course. She talked about a waiver of  
26 indemnification letter.

27 *Ms. Saunders will send a copy of the waiver to Vice-Chair Heffernon who will discuss it*  
28 *with Mayor Dickinson.*

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31 **6. ADJOURNMENT**

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33 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner**  
34 **Pyskaty to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

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37  
38 Respectfully submitted,

39  
40 Cynthia A. Kleist  
41 Recording Secretary