

1 WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2 REGULAR MEETING
3 Thursday, February 9, 2012
4 7 p.m.
5 Town Hall Basement Conference Room
6 45 South Main Street
7 Wallingford, CT.

8
9 **MINUTES**

10
11 **PRESENT:** Chairman Jeff Borne; Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne
12 Saunders; Dianne Lendler; Carl Arsenault; John Lathrop; Key Ryan; Tom Pietras; Erin
13 O'Hare Environmental and Natural Resource Planner; State Rep. Mary Mushinsky, (D-
14 Wallingford).

15
16 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioner James Pyskaty.

17
18 Chairman Borne called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

19
20 **1. Approval of Minutes**

21 **A. Minutes, January 12, 2012**

22
23 On page 1, Vice-Chair Heffernon said she did not make the suggestion regarding the
24 trail signs. Chairman Borne suggested putting in "Commissioner Saunders considered
25 making the trail signs."

26
27 Assignments discussed on page 4, line 26-27, page 5, line 34 and top of page 6, line 4,
28 all should italicized.

29
30 On page 2, Mr. Beaumont left before the vote.

31 On page 4, line 20, should be "six cubic yards" of gravel, not "six tons."

32 On page 3, line 9, is not 30 ft, should be changed to 15 ft. should read "Draft."
33

34 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Lathrop**
35 **to accept the Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2012 as amended. The motion**
36 **passed unanimously.**

37
38 At Chairman Borne's discretion, the Agenda was taken in the following order.

39
40 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

41 **D. Volunteer Work Program – K. Ryan**

- 42 1. "Quinnipiac's Big Event" volunteers.
43

44 Commissioner Ryan said the event is scheduled for April 14 and that Quinnipiac
45 University would send 10 students for three hours.

46
47 Chairman Borne suggested discussing what equipment to bring at the April 12
48 Conservation Commission meeting.

1 *Mr. Ryan will ask Henry McCully, Public Works Director, to comment on plan and to*
2 *provide planks.*

3
4 Mr. Ryan said the geofabric should be installed underneath the stone as a soil separator.
5 He said the fabric is manufactured in 12 ½ and 15 feet widths but the manufacturer
6 would have to slit the material. He said he found two manufacturers, one in Ohio that
7 has three feet lengths and one local supplier, Superior Products in Southington, which
8 also carries the material in three-foot widths.

9
10 He said Ohio supplier would charge \$120 without tax and shipping and Superior
11 Products would charge \$117. He said the geofabric comes in 360 foot rolls and we need
12 275 to 300 feet. Commissioner Ryan said that between the stone and the geofabric, he
13 estimated spending between \$225 to \$300.

14
15 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon to spend up to \$275 towards the**
16 **purchase of materials for the remediation program for the "Big Event."**
17 **Commissioner Lathrop seconded the motion. which passed unanimously.**

18
19 Commissioner Ryan acknowledged Wayne Fogg for helping him learn about geo
20 synthetic fabric, etc.

21
22 2. Eagle Scout project.

23
24 Commissioner Ryan said he has made contact several times but has not heard back.
25 **Commissioner Ryan left the meeting at 8 p.m.**

26
27 **B. Wallace Dam property**

28
29 1. Request relative to fishway naming.

30
31
32 Chairman Borne welcomed State Rep. Mary Mushinsky who addressed the fish ladder
33 construction which helps fish to get around the dam so they can spawn. State Rep.
34 Mushinsky said this fishway idea has been ongoing for 11 years.

35
36 She said the grand opening of the fishway is scheduled for April 21, from 11 a.m. to 1
37 p.m. She said the fish will probably arrive that day and the fishway has an underground
38 chamber with a window attached to it aimed at the fish who mostly swim at night to
39 avoid predators.

40
41 She said the Town of Wallingford discovered it is the co-owner of the dam and the land
42 on both sides which was privately owned in the past. She said a third party owns the
43 water rights.

44
45 Rep. Mushinsky said the Qunniptic River Watershed Association designed the fishway
46 and that over the past 10 years, 5,000 fish per year have been moved into the fishway.

1 Before the fishway, the run had to be manually lifted and now the fishway will allow the
2 fish to come up the run by themselves. She said native vegetation will be planted
3 alongside the dam. The CT Fund for the Environment and Save The Sound will be doing
4 the fishway construction. She asked the Commission to name the fishway after Harry
5 Haakonsen who was a long-time conservationist in Wallingford, who passed away from
6 cancer in 1995 and who was also a professor at Southern Connecticut State University.

7
8 Chairman Borne suggested the Commission write a letter to Mayor Dickinson and the
9 Town Council stating that naming the fishway after Harry Haakonsen would be a nice
10 way to honor him.

11
12 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lendler second by Vice-Chair Heffernon**
13 **authorizing the Commission to draft a letter of support to name the Wallace**
14 **Dam fishway after Harry Haakonsen. The motion passed unanimously.**

15
16 *Ms. O'Hare will draft the letter.*

17 18 **2. Property Management**

19 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

20 21 1. Ravine Restoration (west of Field 7A)

22
23 Ms. O'Hare said she will be going out to the site with Steve Palermo of Public Works on
24 10 a.m. this Friday.

25 26 2. Recreation Trails Grant Program

27 a. Work progress – report, Trails Committee

28
29 Vice-Chair Heffernon distributed the Committee's Final Trails Report on Tyler Mill South
30 to the Commissioners. The report showed photographs of the eight trailhead signs,
31 some of the blazing and some of the bridges, along with a map with numbers showing
32 where the photographs were taken for the DEEP which gave the Town \$48,000 in grant
33 funds to make improvements.

34
35 Vice-Chair Heffernon listed some finishing work that could be completed by Ferrucci &
36 Walicki. She reported on additional tasks the Trails Committee could perform to improve
37 the appearance and safety of the trails.

38 Vice-Chair Heffernon said completion work to be done includes the trailhead sign at
39 Tyler Mill North; improvements to the Northford Rd. entrance; improvements at bridge
40 and parking areas and signage and kiosks.

41
42 Commissioner Saunders spoke about blazing the Gold Trail and possibly taking this on
43 as a project. Vice-Chair Heffernon mentioned the high cost (at \$4 a booklet) of printing
44 the Interpretive Trail Guides. She said Don Roe, Program Planner, would be making
45 condensed versions of the guide to be available on the counters at Town Hall.

46
47 *She will make 10 laminated loan copies for the Library.*

1 Commissioner Lathrop suggested putting the guides on the Town website which will
2 allow people to print them out. Ms. O'Hare said \$12,000 of the matching grant monies
3 remain which she recommended be allocated for all five parking lots and entryway
4 improvements. There is approximately \$5,200 that could be expended for add-on work.
5

6 The 80-foot long trail improvement previously proposed to be located behind the soccer
7 field was discussed. The Trails Committee may propose a revised design for this area in
8 the future.
9

10 *Ms. O'Hare will write up the top of page 2 of the Trails Committee Report outlining*
11 *possible additional tasks to be completed by Ferrucci & Walicki as add-ons and give this*
12 *to the Trails Committee.*
13

14 Chairman Borne praised the Trails Committee for a job well-done on the Final Trails
15 Committee Report.
16

17 Commissioner Saunders suggested making the map of Tyler Mill/Muddy River
18 Conservation and Recreation Area a fold-over map with rules and regulations printed on
19 the back. She suggested the Old Muddy Trail Road be included on the map as an
20 emergency access and the location of the Yellow Trail to be indicated from the soccer
21 field on Woodhouse Avenue. She also suggested more overlooks be put on the map and
22 putting the Town farm fields in the map key, putting in slashes so people would know
23 this is a field, and adding more color distinction between public and private land areas.
24

25 *Chairman Borne requested Ms. O'Hare furnish a big draft Trail System map for a mark-*
26 *up session by the entire Commission on suggested improvements for the final Trails*
27 *Map.*
28
29

30 **3. OPEN SPACE PLAN – Update – Nothing to report.**
31

32 **4. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

33
34 **A. CT Trails Day, June 2 or June 3 (rain date) – report, M. Heffernon.**
35

36 Vice-Chair Heffernon spoke about possibly having the Trails Day at 10 a.m. at the
37 Interpretive Trail.
38

39 **B. Environmental Literacy Program**

40 Vice-Chair Heffernon said Commissioner Saunders were in attendance at the February 4
41 event which was well attended.
42

43 She said the trail maps were well-received. Vice-Chair Heffernon distributed the
44 "Wallingford through the Seasons" program sponsored by Wallingford's Environmental
45 Literacy Initiative. The co-sponsors are the Southwest Conservation District, Wallingford
46 Conservation Commission, Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society, Wallingford Recycling
47 Committee and the Wallingford Land Trust.
48

1 Vice-Chair Heffernon said four backpacks were checked out and Mayor Dickinson was in
2 attendance.

3
4 *Commissioner Saunders will lead a wildflower hike on Saturday, April 21, in Tyler Mill*
5 *Preserve from 2 to 4 p.m.*

6
7 *Commissioner Lendler volunteered to lead the "Celebrate Open Space" even on Oct. 13*
8 *at 10 a.m. in Tyler Mill, raindate Oct. 14 which will be called "Nature Prepares For*
9 *Winter."*

10
11 **C. Trout Brook Valley Preserve – Aspetuck Land Trust – field trip re: management**
12 **– D. Saunders – Nothing to Report.**

13
14 **5. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

15 **A. Sugarbush bid – report.**

16
17 Ms O'Hare said the bid went out but there were no bids received. Commissioner
18 Saunders said the \$100 minimum bid and \$2 million insurance requirement combined
19 with the new tapping guidelines may have been a factor.

20
21 **B. Bid proposals for one-year term (hayfields) – awards recommendation.**

22
23 Ms. O'Hare said there were nine hayfields and six different categories. She said there
24 were four different bidders for the hayfields and her recommendation was award to the
25 highest bidders.

26
27 She asked the Commission to make an award tonight. She said a one-page bid
28 addendum was sent out adding the provision that the Water Division has to review
29 proposals for fertilizer or pesticide applications on those fields in the Wallingford
30 watershed area. Ms. O'Hare said the highest bidder on Fields 2A & 2B wants to apply
31 fertilizer. Ms O'Hare reported on a review procedure from Roger Dann, Water/Sewer
32 Division General Manager. Ms. O'Hare recommended there be a written request signed
33 off by the Water Division if fertilizer is to be applied.

34
35 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Saunders second by Commissioner**
36 **Lathrop to accept and present the highest bidder to the Purchasing**
37 **Department as presented on the tabulation sheets and expedite this in a**
38 **reasonable fashion for processing. The motion passed unanimously.**

39
40 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Saunders second by Vice-Chair**
41 **Heffernon authorizing Ms. O'Hare to make a request to Mayor Dickinson that**
42 **this bid proposal for the one-year term, hayfields, be placed on the next Town**
43 **Council agenda. The motion passed unanimously.**

44
45 *Ms. O'Hare will do so.*

46
47 **6. BUDGET FY 2011-2012**
48

1 Ms. O'Hare said the meeting with Mayor Dickinson is scheduled for Friday, March 2 at
2 2:45 p.m

3
4 *Chairman Borne asked the Commissioners to come up with ideas on the budget and*
5 *send them to Ms. O'Hare as soon as possible.*

6
7 Ms. O'Hare recommended the Commission complete a management report for the 93-
8 acre property formerly owned by Warren Williams on East Center Street, Field 18A.

9
10 Commissioner Saunders said she would like to see some professional services at the
11 Tyler Mill Dam in order to remove the bittersweet and multi-flora and remove the two
12 trees which are about to fall on the Dam.

13
14 Ms. O'Hare said Public Works will remove the tree north of the cribbing with the proviso
15 that when the tree is taken out it will be dumped on the island.

16
17 Ms. Saunders suggested a contractor give a quote on removing the tree near the
18 cribbing and another quote regarding the removal of a second tree located on the top
19 of the dam for future reference.

20
21 *Chairman Borne directed Ms. O'Hare to request a quote from Ed the Treeman regarding*
22 *removal of trees from the Dam.*

23
24 **Commissioner Pietras left the meeting at 9:10 p.m.**

25
26 **7. ANNUAL REPORT – M. Heffernon.**

27
28 Vice-Chair Heffernon distributed a draft Annual Report outlining Conservation
29 Commission accomplishments over the past year which included work at Tyler Mill and
30 the trails system. This report will be presented to the Town Council and Mayor
31 Dickinson. She would like to receive recommendations by Friday, February 17, 2012.

32
33 She also talked about putting the Election of Officers on the March 8 agenda.
34 Vice-Chair Heffernon spoke about possibly doing a show on the trails project on the local
35 Community TV channel.

36
37 Commissioner Saunders expressed concern and confusion about the chainsaw training
38 waiver. She said she had been to a chainsaw training session with the CFPA on
39 December 3 and brought the waiver to the meeting thinking the Stewards of Tyler Mill
40 and Commissioner Arsenault could perform the chainsaw work legally. She said she
41 asked Vice-Chair Heffernon to go to the Mayor to look at the waiver form which she said
42 was approved in January.

43 Vice-Chair Heffernon said the Mayor did not approve the waiver, he approved two or
44 three of the Commissioners to attend chainsaw training through the CFPA and to bring
45 back the information.

46
47 Chairman Borne said he liked the idea of a Stewards of Tyler Mill work party instead of
48 individuals using chainsaws. State Rep. Mushinsky suggested the group should have a

1 written policy. Commissioner Lendler suggested a motion be made keeping the
2 Conservation Commission meetings under three hours.

3
4 *Chairman Borne said he will work with Ms. O'Hare on a proposal regarding*
5 *responsibilities to be voted on at the March 8 meeting.*
6

7 **Vice-Chair Heffernon left the meeting at 9:50 p.m.**
8

9 **8. OPEN SPACE USERS GROUP** – Meeting, Park & Rec Dept., Feb. 27 at 5:30 p.m.

10
11 Chairman Borne reviewed the agenda items of the subject meeting.
12

13 **9. Correspondence/Reports** - will be discussed at the March 8 meeting.
14

15 A. "CT Wildlife," DEEP, Winter 2011-12
16

17 B. "2012 Aquarion Environmental Champion Awards," Aquarion Water Company.
18

19 C. CTNOFA – "2010 Accreditation Course in Organic Land Care"
20

21 D. CFPA – "Conservation Agenda – 2012 Priorities"
22

23 **10. Next Meeting – March 8, 2012**
24

25 **11. Adjournment**
26

27 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner**
28 **Arsenault to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. The motion passed**
29 **unanimously.**
30

31 Respectfully submitted,
32 Cynthia A. Kleist
33 Recording Secretary
34
35
36
37
38
39