

1 Wallingford Conservation Commission
2 Regular Meeting
3 February 10, 2011
4 7 p.m.
5 45 South Main Street
6 Wallingford, CT

7
8 **MINUTES**
9

10 **PRESENT:** Chairman Jeffrey Borne; Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners John
11 Lathrop; Tom Pietras; Carl Arsenault; Dianne Saunders; Dianne Lendler; Kenneth Ryan;
12 Erin O'Hare Environmental and Natural Resources Planner; Recording Secretary Cynthia
13 Kleist.

14 Absent: Commissioner James Pyskaty.

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16 Chairman Borne called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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18 **1. Approval of Minutes**

19 **A. Minutes, January 13, 2011**
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21 On page 4, line 36, Ms. Saunders "report over to Ms. O'Hare" should say "report over to
22 Ms. O'Hare and Don Roe."

23 On page 4, line 32 and 33 should say "the new guide is on leasing farmland and the
24 Wallingford Conservation Commission was asked for a paragraph on deep zone tillage."
25

26 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Lathrop**
27 **to approve the meeting minutes of January 13 as corrected. The motion**
28 **passed unanimously.**
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31 **2. Property Management**

32 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

33 1. Ravine Restoration – No update.

34 2. DEP Recreational Trails Grant

35 a. Consideration of bid award

36 Ms. O'Hare reported that one bid was received from Vynalek Construction in Higganum,
37 CT. which specializes in sewers not culverts. Chairman Borne said it seemed there were
38 so many details in the bid the groups we thought might respond may have been
39 discouraged from doing so. Ms. O'Hare said this project will be re-bid next Thursday
40 because Purchasing said the bid wasn't good because the company has never done trail
41 work which resulted in the bid being officially rejected. Ms. O'Hare asked for
42 suggestions on how to re-bid this project differently.
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44 Chairman Borne asked if there were ways to eliminate the culvert requirement because
45 that seemed to be the problem, but at the same time not have something that would
46 compromise the habitat. He suggested the bid be worded in a way the contractor could
47 suggest ways to cross the water ways.
48

1 Chairman Borne asked if the Pink Trail could be bid separately because it requires no
2 culverts. Ms. O'Hare said she believed the reason this was not done was to be more
3 efficient and because two bids cannot be given to the same company in the same year.
4 Mr. Ryan asked if a year meant fiscal or calendar, which could make a difference. Ms.
5 O'Hare said there are 29 actions on the Pink Trail, most of which involve improving
6 drainage.

7 Ms. O'Hare said the work is bid by category. Chairman Borne asked if the category could
8 be called stream crossings instead of culverts. Ms. O'Hare said an addendum was sent
9 out to all of the people on the vendor's list regarding the river crossing on the Pink Trail,
10 stating that the vendor's bid is to be based on the amount of time anticipated for
11 evaluation of site conditions and preparation of a minimum of three proposed
12 recommended options to be ranked factoring in both cost and feasibility with all
13 proposals to be submitted in written form.

14 *Ms. O'Hare said she would be re-bidding by category and the question regarding the*
15 *Pink Trail would be referred to Mr. Roe.*

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17 **b. IWWC application**

18 An application was submitted to the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission for
19 approval on trail repair within the wetlands.

20 Commissioners reviewed a map which will be attached to the application.

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22 **3. Tamarac Swamp Work – report, C. Arsenault.**

23
24 Mr. Arsenault said the tree markings were still visible in the swamp and believed they
25 would last at least another year, but *he will remark them to make sure they remain*
26 *viable.*

27
28 **B. Farmland Lease Properties Program**

29 1. Farmland Lease Properties Committee – report, D. Saunders

30 2. Fields 1A, 1C, 5A 7E and 7F

31 Ms. Saunders said the Committee came up with three formal questions for the Natural
32 Resources Conservation service. She said another meeting is needed before a report can
33 be given.

34 *Chairman Borne wants to be notified when the Farmland Lease Committee meets with*
35 *Ms. O'Hare so he can attend. Subsequent to this Committee meeting, the requested*
36 *meeting with the Mayor will be scheduled.*

37
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39 **C. Invasive Species Eradication**

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

41 2. Site for annual expenditure

42
43 Ms. Saunders said the area near the bridge needs to be cleaned.

44 Chairman Borne asked if some of the fiscal year 2011/2012 budget should be allocated
45 towards this endeavor. Ms. O'Hare said money could be taken out of the open space
46 fund. Ms. O'Hare brought up a point about the budget. She said in the bid proposal,
47 there is money for 2,500 sq ft of invasive species eradication. She said where the 2,500
48 sq ft is at the discretion of the Conservation Commission. She said someone should

1 designate where this eradication should be done. *Ms. O'Hare and Ms. Saunders will*
2 *bring their invasive species location maps to the March Commission meeting.*

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4 **D. Volunteer Work – report, K. Ryan**

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6 Chairman Borne said the Mayor talked about possibly starting a Friends of Tyler Mill. He
7 asked what it would take to form such a group. Ms. Saunders suggested naming it
8 something else because when most people see “Friends of” they associate it with a fund
9 raising group. Ms. Saunders said the volunteers that perform work requested orange
10 vests approximately a year and a half ago. Chairman Borne asked if money could be
11 spent to purchase orange fluorescent vests that say “Wallingford Conservation Team” or
12 the like. Ms. Saunders said a sample was made showing a little tree that could be put
13 onto the vests. She said there are six or seven volunteers. *Ms. Saunders was authorized*
14 *to purchase 10 reflective vests.*

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16 **3. Property Acquisition – No Report.**

17 **4. Open Space Plan, 1999 – update, D. Saunders – No Report.**

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19 **5. Public Outreach**

20 **A. Earth Day**

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22 Mr. Borne spoke about possibly collaborating with a local merchant who is interested in
23 highlighting Wallingford’s open space through the arts; photographs, art work, etc.

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25 **6. Budget FY 2011-2012**

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27 Ms O'Hare said she will be meeting with the Mayor on February 25 to review both the
28 Inland/Wetlands and Conservation budgets for 2011-2012. She said \$6,000 of the fiscal
29 year 2010/2011 budget was set aside for the Pink Trail as a special project and special
30 projects for the coming fiscal year should be decided tonight.

31 The Commissioners discussed possibly using this years budget monies to install signage,
32 trees, and Tilcon boulders or gates to block unauthorized entrances to fields 2A and 2B.
33 Ms. O'Hare fielded suggestions from the Commissioners regarding a list of projects to be
34 completed for the 2011-2012 budget which will be presented to the Mayor.

35 *Ms. O'Hare will provide details of these projects for the Mayor. Mr. Arsenault will provide*
36 *Ms. O'Hare with an estimated cost per acre for field reclamation.*

37
38 **7. Annual Report –No Report**

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40 **8. Correspondence/Reports**

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42 E. CFPA –membership renewal.

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44 **THE COMMISSIONERS VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO RENEW THE MEMBERSHIP.**

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46 **D. CT Federation of Lakes-LakeSmart Home Award Pledge**

47 Ms. O'Hare is a member of the CT Lake Federation and receives a newsletter which
48 focuses on people who live around a lake area and how to keep the area healthy.

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A. DEP Snow Disposal Release

Ms. O'Hare talked about DEP's recently released policy which allows snow disposal in ponds and lakes due to the extreme snow accumulation.

B. Proposed Legislation

Ms. O'Hare spoke about a proposed bill which would allow Sunday hunting on private lands.

9. Next Meeting – March 10, 2011

10. Adjournment

MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Ryan to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Kleist
Recording Secretary