

1 WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
2 REGULAR MEETING  
3 Thursday, March 8, 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 Jeffrey Borne; Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne  
12 Saunders; Dianne Lendler; Ken Ryan; Carl Arsenault; John Lathrop; Tom Pietras; Erin  
13 O'Hare Environmental and Natural Resources Planner.

14 **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Jen Fengler student, and Scott Dombroski, resident.

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

17 Chairman Borne called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. He entertained certain agenda  
18 items first.  
19

20 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**  
21 **C. Fields 2A & 2B – request for nighttime use.**  
22

23 Mr. Dombroski, a member of the Astronomical Society of Greater Hartford, was present  
24 to ask the Commission for permission to use Fields 2A & 2B at night in order to use his  
25 telescope for stargazing. He said he already has been granted permits from Parks and  
26 Recreation to utilize several other parks in town at night for stargazing.  
27

28 Chairman Borne requested, as part of granting permission, that Mr. Dombroski keep  
29 track of suspicious activity in that area. Mr. Dombroski offered to keep a log book. Ms.  
30 O'Hare noted that since there is an ordinance relative to Town properties closing at  
31 sunset, permits from other parties may be required. The Commission's recommendation  
32 will be forwarded to John Gawlak, Parks and Recreation Director, and Mayor Dickinson.  
33

34 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Lendler**  
35 **to allow Mr. Dembroski usage of the field road between Fields 2A & 2B for**  
36 **one- year for the exclusive use of stargazing and for his use only.**  
37 **The motion passed unanimously.**  
38

39 *Ms. O'Hare will follow-up on this.*  
40

41 **A. Bid awards for one-year term (hayfields) – awards, Town Council**  
42 **meeting, March.**  
43

1 Ms. O'Hare said the awards have to be submitted a week before the next Town Council  
2 meeting as the Purchasing Department reported the insurance documents were not yet  
3 in order.

4 **B. Farmland Lease cycle – 2013-2017 – status.**

5  
6 Ms. O'Hare said she had spoken to the State of Connecticut Department of Agriculture  
7 regarding the leasing of State land, requests for quotes, and the criteria used, as  
8 requested. She passed around a copy of the CT Weekly Agricultural Report and an  
9 excerpt from Farmlands Connections that was sent to her by the State Agricultural  
10 Department in this regard.

11  
12 Regarding the bid cycle, Ms. Saunders said the Farmland Lease Committee will be  
13 meeting on March 20 at 6 p.m.

14  
15 **D. Field 9D – signage for perimeter use.**

16  
17 Ms. O'Hare said a perimeter sign instructing trail users to stay to the perimeter of the  
18 field is needed where the White Trail meets Field 9D. Tamarac Swamp Road is seen in  
19 the distance where people short cut through the field there.

20  
21 *Ms. O'Hare will write a memo to Henry McCully about putting up a perimeter sign.*  
22

23 **E. Field 18A**

24 1.Environmental Review Report

25  
26 Ms. O'Hare said when the leases are overhauled, the Conservation Commission can  
27 effect on the particular use of the Town properties. She expressed interest in the 93  
28 acre property known as Field 18A.

29  
30 Ms. O'Hare had been asked by the Chairman to explore an Environmental Review Team  
31 for Field 18A. The Commission agreed to request an ERT. She asked for Commissioners  
32 input regarding the ERT list and what they would like to see done on the 93 acres.

33  
34 2. Access for horseback riders

35  
36 Ms. O'Hare reported on site investigations conducted with Carol Borsari regarding access  
37 for horseback riders and on repairs made by Public Works which were completed within  
38 a week's time. She said the Water Division agreed to cut the first rung of the fence at  
39 Field 8B near the entranceway of Tyler Mill and Northford Road for horse access.

40  
41 **F. Field 7A – erosion control plan & proposed use**

42  
43 Ms. O'Hare said the need for action came out of the Open Space User's Group Meeting.  
44 She said the field has been fallow. There is a proposal to leave the last 100 feet alone to  
45 go back to forest  
46

1 Ms. Saunders talked about installing a berm and a grass buffer. Ms. O'Hare said during  
2 a site investigation with Steve Palermo of Public Works and Rob Baltramaitis, Assistant  
3 Town Engineer, it was decided to scale back the original plan and just place the stone  
4 berm where the four or five gulleys are coming through the field. She said she is still  
5 waiting for the report from Mr. Baltramaitis.

6  
7 Ms. Saunders suggested that if we have not gotten the report by the time this needs to  
8 go out to bid, the project be incorporated into the bid.

9 *Chairman Borne said he would contact Mr. Baltramaitis and request a bullet report and*  
10 *co-ordinate this with Ms. O'Hare.*

## 11 12 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

### 13 14 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

- 15 1. Ravine Restoration (west of Field 7A) – approval of new quote.

16  
17 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Vice-Chair Heffernon**  
18 **to re-affirm the approval of the quote to fix the ravine for \$1,996. The motion**  
19 **passed unanimously.**

### 20 21 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### 22 **A. Minutes, February 9, 2012.**

23  
24 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner**  
25 **Arsenault to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2012 with the**  
26 **following corrections:**

27  
28 **On page 6, line 2, under "Annual Reports," Vice-Chair Heffernon asked that**  
29 **"which included work at Tyler Mill and the trail system" be stricken.**

30  
31 **On page 1, line 24, should be "Commissioner Lendler" not "Commissioner**  
32 **Saunders."**

33  
34 **On page 2, second paragraph, Commissioner Ryan said the word geofabric**  
35 **needs clarification such as on line 6, "two manufacturers" should be "two**  
36 **suppliers" and "lengths" should be "widths."**

37  
38 **The motion passed unanimously.**

### 39 40 **2. D. Volunteer Work Program – report, K. Ryan.**

- 41 1. "Quinnipiac's Big Event" volunteer project - Tyler Mill, Yellow Trail.

42  
43 Commissioner Ryan said he received confirmation from the co-ordinator at Quinnipiac  
44 University that they will be participating in the "Big Event." He said he had also spoken  
45 to Public Works Director Henry McCully who requested he and Chairman Borne meet at  
46 the site to arrange the stone dumping.

47  
48 *Mr. Ryan will arrange the meeting.*

1  
2 2. Eagle Scout project  
3

4 Commissioner Ryan said he, Vice-Chair Heffernon and Commissioner Lathrop met with  
5 the Eagle Scout at the vernal pool just off the White Trail on the south section.

6 Commissioner Ryan said the Eagle Scout was enthusiastic about taking on the fencing  
7 project. Commissioner Ryan suggested the Eagle Scout conduct a biotic inventory as  
8 well.

9 Commissioner Ryan said the Land Trust will conduct its Annual Meeting on March 15 at  
10 7 p.m. at the Library.  
11

12 **3. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

13 **A. Environmental Literacy Initiative – report, M. Heffernon**  
14

15 Vice-Chair Heffernon passed around the updated event list. She spoke about the “No  
16 Child Left Inside” program for adults on Monday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at the Library; the  
17 “Vanishing of the Bees” film by the Audubon Society at 6:40 p.m. at the Library; and  
18 “Create Your Own Nature Story” with Salt Marsh Diary author Mark Seth Lender at 6:30  
19 p.m. in the Library for grades 5-12. She also said the furniture for The Nature’s Corner  
20 will be arriving this month.  
21

22 **B. Trout Brook Valley Preserve – Aspetuck Land Trust – field trip re: management –**  
23 **D. Saunders. – Nothing to Report.**  
24

25 **1. BUDGET FY 2011-2012 – report, staff**  
26

27 Ms. O’Hare distributed copies of the proposed budget which was presented to the  
28 Mayor, specifically the \$6,000 line item for professional services. She said this year’s  
29 \$6,000 budget was proposed to be spent at the Fresh Meadow Swamp at Cheshire Road  
30 property, with \$2,000 being used to create the northern loop trail. She said there is a  
31 \$91,000 Grant Application in to the DEEP under the Recreational Trails Grant Program  
32 for this property which we have still not heard about.  
33

34 Award notification was originally set for December 2011. Ms. O’Hare said the revised  
35 proposal is to spend all \$6,000 on invasive species eradication at the Fresh Meadow  
36 Swamp at Cheshire Road property which is doable by June 30.  
37

38 Ms. O’Hare said for next year, the proposal would be to use the \$6,000 for the walking  
39 trails project. She said if the grant is awarded to the Town, the \$6,000 would instead be  
40 used at Tyler Mill. She said the grant is for three years.  
41

42 Ms. O’Hare said the Administrative Master Planning Kick-Off meeting for the property  
43 will take place on March 27. Chairman Borne suggested a management plan for the  
44 Tyler Mill site.  
45

46 *Ms. O’Hare will follow up on the real estate transfer fee devoted to open space which*  
47 *came up in discussion.*

1  
2 **7. OPEN SPACE USERS GROUP MEETING, Feb. 27 – report.**  
3  
4

5 Commissioner Saunders said the horse access issue was discussed and resolved. She  
6 said Field 7A was also discussed. She said the meeting was very well attended by the  
7 public and the Commission. Ms. O'Hare reported o the brief presentation made by a  
8 representative of the New England Bikers Association.  
9

10 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**  
11 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**  
12

- 13 2. DEP Recreational Trails Grant Program  
14 a. Work progress – report, Trails Committee  
15

16 Vice-Chair Heffernon spoke about a letter she received from a woman in Middlefield  
17 who is a horse steward and read about Tyler Mill in the newspaper.  
18 Vice-Chair Heffernon passed around samples of the miniature Interpretive Trail  
19 Guides. She said John Gawlak, Parks and Recreation Director, offered to have 500  
20 of them printed up at a cost of \$1,300. Vice-Chair Heffernon showed the four new  
21 Trail Head signs which were made by Commissioner Lendler's son-in law. She said  
22 Ferrucci & Walicki will be asked to hang the signs. Vice-Chair Heffernon said Ferrucci  
23 & Walicki have agreed to the punch list and will finish up the work on the trails.  
24

- 25 b. Additional contract work (Part A & Part B) - approval.  
26

27 Vice-Chair Heffernon said Ms. O'Hare has given them the new add-on list and will  
28 be sending them specifications for the invasive species eradication work.  
29

- 30 c. Parking lots, entranceway, and kiosks – Nothing to report.  
31

- 32 3. New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) program - report,  
33 staff.

34 Ms. O'Hare reported on NEMBA's presentation at the Open Space Users Group. She  
35 said they have 400 to 500 members and their ambassadors are assigned to various  
36 parks including Tyler Mill. She said they conduct trail maintenance programs. Ms.  
37 O'Hare said the group wants to make a slide show presentation to the Conservation  
38 Commission.  
39

40 *Commissioner Saunders will set up a special meeting for a NEMBA presentation.*  
41

- 42 4. Tyler Mill – archeological reporting, D. Saunders and staff.

43 Commissioner Saunders said the Stewards met with Nicholas Bellatoni, State  
44 Archeologist from the University of Connecticut on how to take care of invasives on  
45 the foundations at Tyler Mill. The CT Agricultural Station should be contacted for  
46 proper eradication chemicals to be used that will not affect the stones on the dam.

1 She said the volunteers will take photos and write a benchmark report for his office  
2 and for Environmental Planning.

3  
4 She said a new well was found and five or six trees are in danger of falling into the  
5 river. They also talked about invasive plants growing on the dam. Commissioner  
6 Saunders said the area qualifies for an Archeological Preserve and possibly the  
7 National Register. Preserves receive State protection which helps with vandalism,  
8 with fines and also qualification for funding for invasive plant eradication. She noted  
9 that perhaps the Water Division can lower flow to the Muddy River to assist with tree  
10 removal efforts.

11  
12 5. Roles for Trails Committee and Stewards of Tyler Mill.

13 Chairman Borne talked about clarifying the roles and responsibilities.

14 6. Recommendations re: chainsaw policy  
15  
16

17 Vice-Chair Heffernon and Commissioner Saunders distributed copies of their chainsaw  
18 policy proposals and discussed possible differences and revisions. Vice-Chair  
19 Heffernon said Mayor Dickinson has given the go-ahead to allow chainsaw training for  
20 Commissioners and Stewards to perform simple trail maintenance. She said there are  
21 several places that offer the training. She said four Stewards are interested in the  
22 training.

23  
24 *Chairman Borne asked the Commissioners to read over the reports and comment at*  
25 *the April meeting.*

26  
27 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner**  
28 **Saunders to waive Article 1, Section 1 of the Freedom of Information**  
29 **Regulations to add Vest Funding onto the agenda. The motion passed**  
30 **unanimously.**

31  
32 6A Vest Funding  
33

34 Commissioner Saunders asked the Commission to fund five vests at \$10.25 each Vice-  
35 Chair Heffernon suggested purchasing 10 vests.  
36

37 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner**  
38 **Lathrop to order 10 vests at a cost of approximately \$125. The motion**  
39 **passed unanimously.**  
40

41 **8. Correspondence/Reports**

42 **A. CFPA - membership dues,**

1 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner**  
2 **Arsenault to authorize approximately \$50 for the CFPD dues. The motion**  
3 **passed unanimously.**

4  
5 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Lathrop**  
6 **to spend \$25 to become contributing members of the CT Butterfly**  
7 **Association. The motion passed unanimously.**

8  
9 **B.** CT Land Conservation Council – 2012 Conference, Mar. 24, Wesleyan U.  
10 Middletown. The Commissioners spoke about attending.

11  
12 Commissioner Lendler suggested the possibility of a retreat for the Commission.  
13

## 14 **2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

15  
16 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Lathrop**  
17 **to re-elect Jeffrey Borne as Chairman for a one-year term. The motion passed**  
18 **unanimously.**

19  
20 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Ryan second by Commissioner Lathrop**  
21 **to re-elect Mary Heffernon as Vice-Chair. The motion passed unanimously.**

22  
23 Ms. O'Hare talked about available money in the State of Connecticut's Open Space and  
24 Watershed Land Acquisition Program. She said the deadline to apply is June 28.  
25 Vice-Chair Heffernon indicated Public Works cannot mow the properties to comply with  
26 the mowing schedule. *She will set up a meeting of the Mowing Committee.*  
27 The Commissioners spoke about possibly getting farmers to mow some of the fields.  
28

## 29 **9. Adjournment**

30  
31 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner Ryan**  
32 **to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

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