

1 Wallingford Conservation Commission
2 Regular Meeting
3 March 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;
11 Commissioners Tom Pietras; Carl Arsenault; Dianne Saunders; and
12 Erin O'Hare Environmental and Natural Resources Planner.
13 **Absent:** Commissioner James Pyskaty; Kenneth Ryan; John Lathrop;
14 Dianne Lendler.
15

16 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
17

18 Chairman Borne called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He asked for
19 consideration of the Minutes of February 10, 2011 as presented.
20 Corrections noted were: page 3, line 23 to add, "*Commissioner Lendler*
21 *agreed to follow this up*".
22

23 **MOTION:** A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon to approve the Minutes
24 as corrected.

25 **SECOND:** Commissioner Arsenault.
26

27 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

28 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

- 29 1. Ravine Restoration (Not taken up.)
- 30 2. DEP Recreational Trails Grant

- 31 a. Consideration of bid award (bid opening, March 8).

32 Ms. Heffernon and Ms. O'Hare had attended the bid opening and reported
33 on the tabulation of the four bids received as completed by the Purchasing
34 Department. The Commission considered each bid in depth. Ms. O'Hare
35 was requested to contact all pertinent references. The lowest bidder was so
36 much lower than other bids and the projected cost that the Commission
37 questioned the firm's ability to compete the work with a good product and
38 in a timely fashion and was curious why the low bidder had not submitted a
39 bid for the first bid in February. The work plan was two sentences whereas
40 the plan of the next highest bidder was several pages. No oversight mechanism
41 or reporting was indicated. Ms. O'Hare was requested to obtain certain
42 procedural information from the Purchasing Department. Commission was
43 very impressed with the bid submitted by Ferrucci & Walicki. The
44 Chairman indicated a Special Meeting may need to be called in the event
45 the lowest bidder is determined to not be a qualified bidder.

46 **b. IWWC application**

47 Chairman Borne and Commissioner Heffernon had presented the IWWC
48 application at the March 2 IWWC meeting. Chairman Borne indicated
49 the IWWC requested more detail on the proposed culvert crossings in
50 order to review for permitting and it had concerns over the possibility
51 of poor work by a bad contractor. *The Trails Committee and Ms. O'Hare*

1 *will develop culvert information hopefully working with awardee of bid*
2 *contract.*

3
4 3. Tamarac Swamp Work - report, C. Arsenault

5
6 Commissioner Arsenault indicated he would re-mark for longevity the
7 vegetation to be removed but this would have to wait until the area was
8 approachable, maybe August. Ms. O'Hare stated Don Roe had indicated
9 removal work could be considered as an "add-on" to the bid work.

10 Chairman Borne asked Commissioner Arsenault to report on cost figures
11 relative to clearing early successional habitat to create open areas as
12 proposed in Tyler Mill by Jerry Matuskiewicz. Cost was \$1,400 - \$1,800/acre
13 with brush hog. With the larger machine, Brontosaurus - which destroys
14 stumps leaving a mowable area - its \$2,400/acre, so the 10-acre clearing
15 proposed would be \$24,000. Grants are available for New England
16 Cottontail habitat restoration. Herbiciding is \$150 - \$250/acre depending
17 on chemicals used. *Chairman Borne asked Commissioner Arsenault to*
18 *present this information at the Open Space User's Group this spring.*

19
20 **B. Farmland Lease Properties Program**

21 1. Lease Cycle 2012-2016

22 Chairman Borne, Commissioner Saunders, Commissioner Pietras, and
23 Ms. O'Hare had met last week to brainstorm on means to retain current
24 local farmers as lessees moving forward. The Commission reviewed a draft
25 memorandum to Purchasing Department along with two attachments:
26 draft current informational spreadsheet on all 34 properties in the Program
27 and draft report, "Basis for Bid Waiver Request Relative to FLPP's 2012-2016
28 Lease Cycle". Ms. O'Hare reported that Don Roe had contacted Dave
29 Styger, DEP, relative to the proposal and he said the DEP requires leases to go out
30 to bid. As this effects 7 out of the 25 leases involved, Ms. O'Hare explained
31 that these seven leases would then need to be bid with restrictions. The
32 Commission discussed possible proposed restrictions. *Ms. O'Hare will forward*
33 *the memorandum to Sal Amadeo, Purchasing, as revised.*

34
35 Commissioner Pietras reported on the Aquifer Protection District proposal to revise
36 lease restrictions relative to fertilizer and pesticide use on fields within Aquifer Protection
37 Districts (Field 13A and 14A). *Staff will forward memorandum to Water Division in*
38 *this regard.*

39
40 2. Farmland Lease Properties Committee - report, Dianne Saunders

41 Commissioner Saunders, as Chair, distributed the Committee's report and
42 reviewed it. The washout of new storm management facility located on Field 2A, the
43 restoration of Field 7A, and need for a gate at Field 11A and 11B in light of recent
44 trespass damage were discussed. *Staff will contact VoAg about issue and Commission can 45*
pay for gate.

45
46
47 3. Field 1A, 1C, 5A, 7E & 7F - (Not taken up.)

48 **C. Invasive Species Eradication**

49 1. Long-term invasive species management program - update,

50 Dianne Saunders - No news to report.

51 2. Site for annual expenditure

1 Staff was asked to report next month on previous expenditure for eradication
2 at entrance to Tyler Mill Preserve. Commissioner Saunders requested staff be
3 sure to alert contractor to certain spots where Japanese Knotweed needs to be
4 treated near area already treated. Matter to be taken up next month relative
5 to this year's location for work.

6

7 **3. PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

8 A. Report (Not taken up.)

9

10 **4. OPEN SPACE PLAN, 1999** - update, Dianne Saunders

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12 **D. Volunteer Work Program - report Ken Ryan - (Not taken up.)**

13

14 **5. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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16 Chairman Borne and staff reported on Commissioner Lender's effort
17 relative to the photographer who will photograph open space for gallery
18 show. *She and Commissioner Saunders will take photographer to select*
19 *locations on March 25.*

20

21 A. Earth Day - Not taken up.

22

23 B. Film event, "Mother Nature's Child"

24

25 Vice-Chairperson Heffernon indicated the Wallingford library and the

26 Commission will co-sponsor this film on April 29, 7 p.m. in the Library.

27 This is one of three environmental films being shown by the Library.

28 She spoke about the upcoming Recycling Art Contest.

29

30 **6. BUDGET FY 2011-2012**

31

32 The Commission and staff revisited budget ideas for professional natural
33 resources services as discussed at the last meeting. Final proposal was
34 agreed upon to be presented by Vice-Chairman and staff to the Mayor at the
35 March 18 budget meeting.

36

37 Commissioner Arsenault reviewed the mowing plan for Beseck Meadow.

38 *The Commission will need to flag the areas to be managed in the spring.*

39

40 Staff reported that work previously approved for Tamarac Swamp can be
41 completed as an "add-on" to the Tyler Mill bid work. Commission approved
42 proposed work not to exceed \$1,100 in the FY 11-12 Budget. Other
43 proposals were all for the Fresh Meadow Swamp at Cheshire Road property,
44 as follows: concept loop path (\$2,900), invasive species control at erratic
45 rock (\$900), improvements and planting at Butterfly Meadow (\$1,100),
46 and general invasive plant species control for (\$1,100). *The potential for development*
47 *of a community garden there will be brought by Commissioners at the next Open Space*
48 *Users Group meeting.*

49

Commissioner Arsenault will depict the lay out of Tessa's Trail on a map. It is half-built.

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51 **7. ANNUAL REPORT**

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Vice-Chairperson Heffernon will prepare this report shortly.

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8. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

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A. CT Federation of Lakes - Lake Smart Home Award Pledge -
(Distributed)

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B. CFPA - membership renewal - (Not taken up.)

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C. CACIWC "The Habitat" newsletter, Winter 2010 - (Distributed.)

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9. NEXT MEETING - April 14.

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10. ADJOURNMENT

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Chairman Borne adjourned the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Acting Recording Secretary

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Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner