

**Conservation Commission  
Town of Wallingford  
April 8, 2010  
MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Conservation Commission was held on, Thursday, April 8, 2010, in the Basement Conference Room of the Town Hall Municipal Building, 45 South Main Street, Wallingford, Connecticut.

Seated from the Commission were Chairperson Jeffrey Borne, Vice Chairperson Mary Heffernon, John Lathrop, Carl Arsenault, Kenneth Ryan, Tom Pietras, and Dianne Saunders.  
Town staff people present were Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner, Don Roe, Program Planning, and Recording Secretary Sonja Vining.  
Absent: James Pyskaty

Chairman Borne called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**A. March 11, 2010 – Regular Meeting**

Several changes were made to the Minutes:

- Page 2, C.3., First sentence should read, "Robert Bertekap appeared before the Commission to request permission to conduct activity at the Fresh Meadow Swamp at Cheshire Road".
- Page 3, A.6., Delete "Dayton Swamp" (as the name of the swamp)
- Page 4, Item 6, To read, "Chairman Borne reported on the meeting stating that some issues discussed were creating meadows in the Tyler Mill Preserve and clearing out old foundations. Carl Arsenault also attended the meeting".

**MOTION:** Ms. Heffernon to approve the Minutes of the March 11, 2010 meeting as corrected.  
**SECOND:** Mr. Ryan  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

**B. March 18, 2010 – Special Meeting**

Several changes were made to the Minutes:

- Page 1, Mary Heffernan should be spelled Mary Heffernon
- Page 1, Section 2, second paragraph, first sentence to read, "Given the fact that neither bid met the bid specifications, the Committee felt that the Commission should reject the bids and re-bid". (Delete "the bid matter")
- Page 1, Section 2, second paragraph, last sentence to read, "On March 18, 2010, Ms. Saunders supplied copies of the bid submittals to UCONN and they had responded with a similar assessment as the Committee's".

**MOTION:** Ms. Heffernon to approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2010 Special Meeting as corrected.  
**SECOND:** Mr. Arsenault  
**VOTE:** Unanimous

**C. March 19, 2010 – Special Meeting**

Several changes were made to the Minutes:

- Page 1, Mary Heffernan should be spelled Mary Heffernon

Page 1, 2a, Motion should read, “Mr. Lathrop – Commission to recommend requesting the Purchasing Department puts out to bid, for pasture, Field 4A and Field 19A (as revised) to be bid together for a seven-year term as prepared by the Commission”.

Page 2, “Erin O’Hare, Environmental Planner, Acting Recording Secretary” to be added as signatory at the end of the Minutes.

MOTION: Ms. Heffernon to approve the Minutes of the March 19, 2010 Special Meeting as corrected.

SECOND: Ms. Saunders

VOTE: Unanimous

## **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:**

### **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

#### **1. Entranceway – invasive species eradication contract**

Chairman Borne stated that there are no specs for the removal of phragmites and no specs could be found from the Army Corp. It would be up to the Commission to develop a plan or hire a contractor to draw up the specs, which involve 3-years of treatment. The Commission discussed different techniques that could be used and how the work could be bid. Tom Pietras suggested that the Commission put together a study committee to do some research and talk to professionals in the field before any bid is put together to go out. The W&S Divisions are scheduled to begin their work in approximately one month. Mr. Roe explained the bid process to the Commission. He felt that since Commission and staff did not have the available resources to conduct the research necessary within the time frame, that the W&S Divisions should be responsible for developing the specs since it is a part of their project and then the Conservation Commission could piggyback on that bid.

#### **2. Ravine restoration – behind Field 7A**

Mr. Pietras reported that he is still waiting for Mr. Baltramaitis, Engineering Department, to contact him and set up a site walk that would also be attended by Commissioners Nick Kern and Jim Vitali from the IWWC.

#### **3. DEP Recreational Trails Grant work – status**

Don Roe reported that it is still in the draft stage. Ms. Saunders pointed out that some of the trouble spots have changed since originally discussed and so the base report is now out of date. Mr. Roe will work with Ms. Saunders to update the report. Ms. O’Hare will request the Engineering Department to perform boundary markings in pertinent areas of concern.

### **B. Farmland Lease Properties Program**

#### **1. Fields 1A, 1C, 7E, & 7F**

- a. Bid opening, April 9, 2:15 p.m.
- b. Set Special Meeting for purposes of approving award
- c. Town Council – consideration of award, April 13

Ms. Saunders reported that the Farmland Lease Committee has scheduled a Special Meeting for April 9, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. right after the Bid opening to review the bids and make recommendations.

MOTION: Mr. Lathrop to authorize the Farmland Lease Committee to review the bids with the Purchasing Department and make a bid award recommendation.

SECOND: Ms. Heffernon

VOTE: Unanimous

A Special Meeting of the Conservation Commission was scheduled for April 12, 2010 at 4:45 p.m. for the purpose of considering bid exceptions should that be necessary. Ms. Saunders would contact the Commission in that case.

2. Field 4A & 19A (southern part)

- a. Bid opening, April 16, 2:00 p.m.
- b. Set Special Meeting for purposes of approving award
- c. Town Council – consideration of award, (proposed) April 23

Ms. Saunders reported that the Farmland Lease Committee has scheduled a Special Meeting for the Committee on April 19, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. to review the bids to be opened on April 16<sup>th</sup> and to make a recommendation of award.

A Special Meeting of the Conservation Commission was tentatively scheduled for April 22, 2010 at 4:15 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing bid recommendations should that be necessary.

**C. Fresh Meadow Swamp at Cheshire Road**

1. Footbridge project – report, K. Ryan

Nothing new to report.

2. Walking Path Concept Plan (phase two) contract – status

Nothing new to report.

3. Rocket launching, May 1 (rain/wind date, May 2)

Nothing new to report.

**D. Invasive Species Eradication**

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

Ms. Saunders reported that the Volunteer invasive species group walked Field 6A, 6B, 6C and the Water Division R.O.W. and will monitor those areas and other areas for occurrence of invasive plants. She reported that Peter Picone stated that the worst invasives now establishing themselves in CT are mile-a-minute vine, porcelain vine, and Tree of Heaven.

Chairman Borne stated he would like to see the completion, over time, of mapping of amphibian breeding spots in town.

**E. Ferguson Woods**

1. Storage of earthen materials

Ms. O'Hare reported that she wrote a memo to Henry McCully asking him to remove the dirt from around three trees to prevent any damage to those trees. The Commission asked that Ms. O'Hare contact Mr. McCully to remind him that he was supposed to move the pile of material deposited on this property. The material is to be relocated to any area other than open space.

2. Trail blazing contract - status

Nothing new to report.

**F. Bertini Park**

1. Trail blazing contract – status

Nothing new to report.

2. Project Adventure Ropes Course – J. Gawlak

Ms. O'Hare reported that John Gawlak has indicated this program is in the exploratory stage.

**G. Fireworks Island & Community Lake**

1. Boat launches – update, J. Gawlak

Ms. O'Hare reported that there is a meeting scheduled with the Mayor tomorrow to discuss the two proposed canoe launches.

**H. Volunteer Work Program**

Nothing new to report.

**3. PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

**A. Reports**

**B. Other**

**4. OPEN SPACE PLAN, 1999 - update**

Nothing new to report.

**5. CELEBRATE OPEN SPACE DAY – May 2, 1:00 p.m. (raindate May 16, 1 p.m.)**

They will be hiking the northern part of Tyler Mill and parking is at Vietnam Vets Memorial Field. Ken Ryan had promoted the program on Government TV.

**6. BY-LAWS - signing**

Ms. Heffernon indicated that the revised by-laws were never signed. They need to be signed by Chairman Borne and sent to the Town Clerk's Office.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS**

a. Earth Day – April 22

**8. NEXT MEETING – May 13, 2010**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Ms. Heffernon to adjourn.

SECOND: Mr. Ryan

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonja Vining  
Recording Secretary