

1
2 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**
3 **REGULAR MEETING**

4 **Thursday, June 9, 2011**
5 **7 p.m.**

6 **Town Hall Basement Conference Room**
7 **45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT**

8
9 **MINUTES**
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13 **PRESENT:** Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne Saunders; Dianne
14 Lendler; Ken Ryan; John Lathrop; Carl Arsenault; Erin O'Hare, Environmental and
15 Natural Resources Planner.

16 Not in attendance: Chairman Jeff Borne; Commissioners James Pyskaty and
17 Thomas Pietras.

18
19 Mary Heffernon, acting as Chairperson, convened the meeting at 7: 03 p.m.
20

21 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.**

22 **A. Minutes of May 12, 2011**
23

24 On page 7, line 6 should be "Orchard Glen" not "Spruce Glen.

25 On page 6 last line, the word "acquisition" should be added.

26 On page 1, line 26, Ms. Heffernon clarified she did not ask for the entire Farmland
27 Lease Committee Report to be attached to the Minutes, just the section of the
28 Farmland Lease Committee report referring to items, 6, 7, & 8.
29

30 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Ryan second by Commissioner Arsenault**
31 **to approve the Minutes of May 12, 2011 as amended. The motion passed 6-0-**
32 **0.**

33 **B. Discussion of Minutes.**
34

35 Acting Chairperson Heffernon said the Recording Secretary works on the Minutes with
36 Ms. O'Hare. She said when the Minutes appear at the meeting is when discussion and
37 changes should be made by the Commissioners, not prior.
38

39 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**
40

41 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

42 1. Ravine Restoration (west of Field 7A) – status – Nothing to report.
43

44 2. DEP Recreational Trails Grant Program

45 a. Work progress – report, staff.
46

1 Acting Chairperson Heffernon presented the latest report, on Part A (which included
2 everything but the Pink Trail). She said work will be focused on Part B (the Pink Trail)
3 which needs to be completed by June 30, 2011. All work associated with Part A will be
4 completed by September 30, 2011.

5
6 **b. IWWC Application**

7 Acting Chairperson Heffernon reported the IWWC acted on June 1 to approve five
8 additional wetland or stream crossings. These crossings were not in evidence in the
9 dry season when the Trails Committee conducted its delineation work.

10
11 **3. Boundary marking.**

12
13 Ms. Saunders said the ATV's are entering the property at Tamarack Swamp brook
14 behind Field 10A but said she is not sure where the property line is. Ms. O'Hare passed
15 around a map of the Tamarack Swamp Road area. *Ms. O'Hare will forward a memo to*
16 *the Law Department regarding the possibility of disposing of the skinny access way at*
17 *22 Tamarac Road.*

18 Ms. O'Hare said she would pursue the previously requested boundary markings in
19 time for the Fall season. She said posts are needed at Field 4C at the top of Whirlwind
20 Road so the property line can be posted where the trespass has occurred.

21
22 **B. Beseck Mountain – ATV trespass.**

23
24 Ms. O'Hare said she had received five phone calls from a resident regarding ATV use
25 in the area and the damage they have caused. Ms. O'Hare passed around photos taken
26 by the resident of the damage. The Commissioners agreed to contact the owner after
27 the posts are in.

28 *The Commissioners authorized Mr. Arsenault to investigate if the DEP could be used to*
29 *halt the ATV use.*

30
31 **At the discretion of the Chair, the agenda was moved from Item C "Farmland**
32 **Lease Properties Program" to Item D "Mowing."**

33
34 **C. Mowing – status.**

35
36 Ms. O'Hare said she had sent a memo on May 26th, 2011 to Henry McCully advising him
37 to mow the central third of Field 4C. Ms. Heffernon asked Mr. Arsenault to make sure
38 the Butterfly Meadow was mowed as soon as possible. Mr. Arsenault reported that he
39 asked Public Works to mow Beseck Meadow and will ask that Field 1B be mowed.

40
41 **D. Invasive Species Eradication.**

42 **1. Long-term invasive species management program – D. Saunders.**

43
44 Ms. Saunders reported the knotweed project was completed at Field 10B. She said she
45 believes there is another small outgrowth by Tamarack Swamp Rd. She said there are
46 islands in the Muddy River covered with knotweed.

47
48 **2. Tyler Mill Preserve Entrance Work.**

1 Ms. O'Hare said she received a quote and is doing the P.O. (Purchase Order) for this
2 work. She said a letter was written to Mayor Dickinson to authorize spending \$902
3 from the Open Space Resources Management Fund and \$1,000 to be funded by the
4 Water Division on this regard. Ms. O'Hare said last year, the cost to us, (money coming
5 from the Open Space Resources Management Fund), was \$1,995. Three small new
6 areas are to be treated.
7 Acting Chairperson Heffernon reported on the on-going purple loostribe beetle control
8 program.

9
10 **E. Volunteer Work Program** – report, K. Ryan – Nothing to report.

11
12 **F. Plantings on various properties.**

13 1. Status

14
15 Mr. Ryan said he walked the Galko field and noticed one white pine was lost to winter
16 kill. He said the cedars and the rest of the white pines are doing well. He said he walked to
17 the gas line and reported everything looks healthy but there is not much growth because of
18 shady conditions.

19 *Ms. O'Hare was authorized to purchase white pines if she can locate untrimmed*
20 *trees.*

21
22 **3. Property Acquisition** – Nothing to report.

23
24 **4. Open Space Plan – 1999** – update, D. Saunders – Nothing to report.

25
26 **5. Public Outreach**

27 A. Celebrate Open Space Day

28
29 Acting Chairperson Heffernon said she and the Children's Librarian put together a
30 grant proposal to the Jr. Women's Club based on the "Mother Nature's Child" film
31 which was recently shown at the Library. She said they had the idea of setting up a
32 nature center in the Library, have some speakers come in and sponsor hikes in Town.
33 She said they listed as participating agencies on this grant, the Library and the
34 Conservation Commission, the Recycling Committee and the Land Trust. She said she
35 had Chairman Borne and Don Roe, Economic Development Coordinator, read over the
36 grant before it was submitted.

37
38 Acting Chairperson Heffernon said she and the Children's Librarian discussed basing
39 Open Space Day on children, i.e. having a scavenger hunt, things you should know
40 when you take your child hiking. She said she was looking for a time of day and other
41 suggestions from the Commissioners. She suggested Ferguson Woods as the location
42 for the hike. Ms. Lendler spoke about a woman from Durham, CT who has a website
43 entitled "Everyone Outdoors.org" who does work with children. Ms. Heffernon
44 suggested giving each participating child a "passport" which could be stamped upon
45 completion of the trail hike.

46
47 The Commissioners decided on Saturday, July 23 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for the hike
48 with parking at the cul-de-sac on Dibble Edge Road.

1
2 Acting Chairperson Heffernon spoke about the problem at Ferguson Woods with the
3 trail. She said the trail suddenly ends at Public Work's dirt pile. She said three wooden
4 posts with blazes and some trimming are in the planning stages of being installed.
5 Acting Chairperson Heffernon said this would all have to be completed in the next few
6 weeks for the Open Space Day.

7
8 **6. Farmland Lease Properties Program**

9 1. Field 2A – gate.

10
11 Ms. Saunders reported she and Done Roe investigated the site. The guardrails were
12 left off 50 feet up the road after the road work. The gate will be installed after some
13 design issues are resolved. She discussed a lower cost farm gate design,
14

15
16 2. Fields 4A & 19A – report.

17
18 Ms. O'Hare said she and Adam Mantzaris, Corporation Council, met with the lessee
19 which was very productive. She said maps were given of the property. She said Ms.
20 Saunders also walked the entire fence line and the lessee was given permission to install
21 a gate on Field 19A. Ms. O'Hare said when Ms. Saunders was out in the field, she
22 discovered three wells which she believed were not adequately covered. Public Works
23 reported there is no issue.
24

25 Ms. Saunders said she noticed while checking the fence line that a theatre group was
26 renting the barn. *The Commission asked Ms. O'Hare to draft a memo regarding the new*
27 *rental arrangement.*
28

29 3. Lease Cycle 2012-2016

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31 Ms. O'Hare reported on the survey on the proposed one year lease extension.
32

33 4. Farmland Lease Properties Committee – report, D. Saunders.

34
35 Ms. Saunders reported she made a list and a map of the proposed revisions of the
36 field areas. She said she will be typing it out and Mr. Pietras will be working on it.
37

38 **7. CORRESPONDENCE**

39
40 Ms. Lendler said she had sent a letter to the Mayor Dickinson regarding the Stewards
41 of Tyler Mill outlining what the objective of the group would be. She said she
42 understood the letter was sent to the Risk Manager. She said a meeting with the
43 Stewards of Tyler Mill is scheduled for the end of July.
44

45 A. Yale Student Research Project

46
47 Ms. O'Hare said the Yale research student changed the location of some of her plots.
48 She said the student met with herself and Ms. Saunders on May 24th. The insect cages

1 are set up. Mr. Ryan said the tape and signs are also set up. Ms. O'Hare said we may
2 learn how to better manage our fields from this research. Ms. Saunders said a place
3 was established for the student to put her mowing machine on Field 4C so she doesn't
4 have to go out on Whirlwind Hill Road.

5
6 B. Emerald Ash Borer – State Information for public officials – No Report.

7 C. Conservation Options for Connecticut Farmland – A Guide For Landowners,
8 Land Trusts & Municipalities - No Report.

9
10 D. 2011 Trail Grants Announcement.

11
12 Ms. O'Hare passed around a newsletter which talked about the availability of a new
13 trail grant.

14 Ms. O'Hare passed out a letter from Friends of Boulder Knoll Farm in Cheshire, CT,
15 thanking the Conservation Commission for their donation.

16 Ms. Saunders said the CT Audubon Society will be doing an inventory of Tyler Mill for
17 birds. She said the Steward of Tyler Mill wildflower count inventory is 48 so far.

18
19 E. ATV use – May 28 meeting. Public Safety Committee, Town Council – No
20 Report.

21 F. DEP Section 401 Water Quality Certification - Save the Sound. A Program of
22 the CT Fund for the Environment – installation of a denil fishway at theWallace Dam on
23 the Quinnipiac River. – No Report

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25 **8. NEXT MEETING – July 14, 2011**

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27 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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30 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner Ryan**
31 **to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

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35 Respectfully submitted,
36 Cynthia A. Kleist
37 Recording Secretary

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