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**WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Thursday, July 14, 2011**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Town Hall, Basement Conference Room**  
**45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Jeffrey Borne; Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne Saunders; Ken Ryan; John Lathrop; Carl Arsenault; James Pyskaty; Erin O'Hare, Environmental and Natural Resources Planner.

Not in attendance: Commissioners Dianne Lendler and Tom Pietras.

Vice-Chair Heffernon, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Chairman Borne arrived at 7:15 p.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Minutes, June 9, 2011**

On page 1, line 36, regarding discussion of the meeting minutes, Vice-Chair Heffernon requested adding the line "don't call the Secretary at home."

On page 2, lines 31 & 32 should be removed.

On line 19, "Hill" should be added after Whirlwind.

On page 3, line # 7, the correct spelling should be "Loosestrife."

On line 35, Don Roe's title should be is "Program Planner."

On page 4, line 20, a period should be added after "fence line." Then add a new sentence: "Lessee was given permission by the Law Department."

On page 4, line 31, "preliminary survey" instead of "survey."

On page 5, line 3, Ms. Saunders wanted "to access Field 4C with her mower" instead of "to put her mowing machine on Field 4C."

On page 7, line 4, Mr. Ryan said "the Mayor Dickinson" should be changed to "Mayor Dickinson."

**MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Lathrop to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2011 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Borne requested Ms. O'Hare to copy him all correspondence forwarded to the Mayor and to any departments or agencies.

At the discretion of Chairman Borne, the agenda was moved to Item # 5 "Property Acquisition."

**5. PROPERTY AQUISITION**

1                   **A. Property site walk – June 28 – report.**  
2

3 Chairman Borne spoke about the draft report regarding the site walk held on June 28.  
4 He said one of the most valuable parts of this property is how it links up with other open  
5 space. Chairman Borne said he contacted Mayor Dickinson regarding the linking aspect  
6 of the property. The Commission agreed to recommend pursuing the open space  
7 acquisition.  
8

9                   **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

10                   **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

11                   1. Ravine Restoration (west of Field 7A)  
12

13 Ms. O'Hare said the original quote she received from Ferrucci & Walicki regarding  
14 recommended erosion control work was approximately \$4,800. She said she contacted  
15 them and asked them to re-quote based on a simpler scope which came in at \$1,854  
16 and would involve dropping logs and putting in hay bales. Ms. O'Hare said the money to  
17 pay for the project would be coming from the Open Space Resources Management  
18 Fund. *The Conservation Commission directed Ms. O'Hare to send a memo to Henry*  
19 *McCully and Rob Baltramaitis to move forward with installation of rip rap along the back*  
20 *(west) edge of Field 7A.*  
21  
22

23  
24 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Saunders second by Commissioner Ryan**  
25 **to spend \$1,854 to install log check dams and haybales in the wooded ravine**  
26 **behind Field 7A. The motion passed unanimously.**  
27

28                   2. DEP Recreational Trails Grant Program

29                   a. Work Progress – report, Trails Committee  
30

31 Vice-Chair Heffernon said the Pink Trail work is completed and the trail head signs have  
32 been installed at both ends of the trail. She said the Trails Committee has inspected  
33 both sides of the trail. Work has begun on the rest of the grant work.  
34  
35

36                   b. Pink Trail – report on major crossing.  
37

38 Vice-Chair Heffernon said copies of the contractor's report were sent out discussing  
39 different ideas pertaining to the river crossing. Vice-Chair Heffernon said the Trails  
40 Committee liked the stepstone bridge idea. The Conservation Commission discussed  
41 different bridge crossing ideas. Chairman Borne talked about the possibility of cutting  
42 old utility poles lengthwise, putting them side by side and using them for a crossing. *The*  
43 *Trails Committee will obtain cost of a crossing consisting of three flattened poles (50 –*  
44 *feet-long each) plus a guide rope and the geo-webbing of the banks for horses.*  
45 *Chairman Borne directed Ms. O'Hare to contact the Electric Division to discuss the*  
46 *concept of installing 50 ft. telephone poles.*  
47

- c. Remaining Work Elements under the Program, staff & Trails Committee
- d. Reviewing quotes for additional work.

Vice-Chair Heffernon said the Trails Committee met Thursday. She said there is extra money from the original bid document to have other trails signs installed and a few small bridges installed coming in from Woodhouse Avenue. She said work is being done on the southern part of Tyler Mill. Mr. Lathrop said the Pink Trail had to be completed by the end of June, so that was the first priority. He said blazing of the main trails is underway.

- 3. Boundary Marking – Nothing to report.
- 4. ATV accident and motor vehicle in river – reports

Ms. Saunders said since September there have been five events involving motorized vehicles in Tyler Mill Preserve. She said on Sept. 30, 2010, a vehicle burned on the wooden bridge in the southern section of Tyler Mill; at the end of March, early April 2011 a small car crashed into the concrete blocks on the south end of Tyler Mill Road between the Barrett property and the bridge; on May 6, 2011 a jeep was sent down the embankment off Maltby Lane into the old mill pond below creating an oil spill in Muddy River. DEP responded to the spill; on June 26, 2011, a dirt bike rider was injured riding in the southern end of Tyler Mill Preserve (he was rescued by the Fire Dept. and sent to the hospital); and on July 11, 2011 an ATV was burned on Tyler Mill bridge and then put into the fishing pond on the west side of the bridge. Dianne Saunders suggested the Risk Manager be advised of these incidents.

*The Commission authorized Chairman Borne to contact Mayor Dickinson, the Police, and Fire Departments to request the Conservation Commission be notified when these incidents occur. Once he has a copy of the police report regarding the July 11 incident, he will do so.*

## **B. Fresh Meadow Swamp at Cheshire Road**

- 1. Butterfly Meadow

Vice-Chair Heffernon said Public Works mowed about 1/3 of the butterfly meadow however, the seeded area was not mowed. She said she would like to see the meadow half-mowed this year and half-mowed next year.

She said she did not see the flowers she hoped to see, but said there are native grasses growing and a lot of milkweed. Swamp milkweed plants are to be donated and installed. Chairman Borne brought up the idea of hiring a contractor to do the mowing. Mr. Arsenault discussed the possibility of contracting with Public Works to perform the mowing for next year. Chairman Borne suggested the Commission offer a letter of support.

- 2. Yale Research project – Nothing to report.

1 3. Map of Tessa's Trail  
2  
3

4 Ms. O'Hare submitted a map of the Trail as completed by the Engineering Department to  
5 the Commission. Mr. Arsenault said the trail was not yet blazed.  
6

7 **C. Open Space Property At 75 Jenna Road.**

8 1. Trespass – dumping.  
9

10 Ms. O'Hare said a neighbor had reported illegal dumping into the ravine. *Ms. O'Hare will*  
11 *write a memo to the Law Department regarding enforcement and ceasing dumping.*  
12 Carl Arsenault reported dumping and ATV use on Town open space off Wisk Key Wind  
13 Road.  
14

15 **D. Invasive Species Eradication**

16 1. Long-term invasive species management report – update, D. Saunders.  
17

18 Ms. Saunders said the knotweed was done on Tamarack Swamp Road. She said they  
19 went out to look at property markers on the unmarked trail on the east side of the Park  
20 on New England Drive. She said three trees were adopted by a resident that were in the  
21 most distress. The resident cleared out the bittersweet vines from the trees, resulting in  
22 a fresh native canopy.  
23

24 2. Tyler Mill Preserve Entrance work – report – staff.  
25

26 Ms. Saunders said the entrance looks good but she did not notice if the islands were  
27 worked on. Ms. O'Hare said eradication results on the islands will take six to eight weeks  
28 to take hold according to the contractor.  
29

30 3. Purple Loosestrife Eradication Program – report – M. Heffernon.  
31

32 Vice-Chair Heffernon said beetles were released in the Wharton Brook Drive area. She  
33 said there was a lot of beetle activity near the Tilcon property where some of the  
34 loosestrife is just beginning to bloom.  
35

36 **A. Volunteer Work Program – report – K. Ryan – Nothing to report.**  
37

38 **F. Plantings on various properties**

- 39 1. Status  
40 2. Purchases  
41  
42

43 Ms. O'Hare said she called various nurseries and could not find native-looking pines. She  
44 said she received a call from Kogut's and was able to purchase 15 native-looking 5 to 6  
45 ft native pines at \$20 apiece. Ms. O'Hare presented four covered clipboards she had  
46 recently purchased at \$12 apiece for use by Commissioners in the field.  
47

48 **2. MOWING – status.**

1  
2 Ms. O'Hare said she had spoken with the Public Works Dept. mowing personne who did  
3 not mow Fields 1B and 4C as requested because they were too wet. She talked about  
4 coyotes and red tail hawks on the Galko property. Mr. Arsenault said the Bougai Field  
5 was mowed. Ms. O'Hare reported dumping on Field 4C.

6  
7 Carl Arsenault reported that a contractor has mowed Beseck Meadow and has left the  
8 milkweed in place.

9  
10 *The Commission directed Ms. O'Hare to write a letter to the resident dumping on Field*  
11 *4C, and forward a copy to the Legal Department.*

12  
13 4. **SIGNAGE**– Nothing to report.

14  
15 6. **OPEN SPACE PLAN 1999** – update, D. Saunders – Nothing to report.

16  
17 7. **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

18  
19 A. **"Celebrate Open Space" Day, Ferguson Woods, July 23, 9:30 a.m.**  
20 **to 11:30 a.m.**

21 1. **Preparations** – report, M. Heffernon.

22  
23 Vice-Chair Heffernon said the property is in good shape. She said Mr. Arsenault installed  
24 the posts and she blazed them. She said she went out this past weekend and cut away  
25 all of the overgrowth around the Open Space sign at the end of Dibble Edge Road and  
26 cleaned up the parking area. She said the plan is to hike from the Dibble Edge Road  
27 portion of Ferguson Woods to the North Branford Road portion and then do the  
28 scavenger hunt. She said she asked Public Works to remove a large pile of plastic pipe.  
29 Vice-Chair Heffernon said the event has been heavily promoted with flyers, daycares,  
30 the Scouts, and in the news media. She said trail mix will be provided.

31  
32 8. **RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT** – (September deadline)

33  
34 Ms. O'Hare said the Recreational Trails Grant application deadline is due September 1.  
35 She said Grant can be used for new trails; maintenance of old trails; ADA access; and  
36 the purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment.  
37 *Commissioner Borne asked Mr. Arsenault to find out if Henry McCully has a brush type*  
38 *mower.*

39  
40 *The Commission voted 5-1 (Vice-Chair Heffernon against) to apply for the Recreational*  
41 *Trails Grant to install and maintain (2 years) the concept walking path at Fresh Meadows*  
42 *Swamp at Cheshire Road. (The proposal does not include the northern loop trail as that*  
43 *is budgeted for FY 11-12).*

44  
45 9. **FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

46 A. **Fields 2A & 2B** – gate.  
47

1 Ms. O'Hare said there was an inter-department meeting on the gate which is still being  
2 deliberated and several reasons not to install a gate had been presented.

3  
4 **B. Lease Cycle – 2012-2016.**

5  
6 Ms. Saunders said this will be completed by the Fall of 2011.

7  
8 **10. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

9  
10 **A. CACIWC – membership dues**

11  
12 Ms. O'Hare said the membership cost is \$50.

13  
14 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner Ryan**  
15 **to pay \$50 for CACIWC membership dues. The motion passed unanimously.**

16  
17 **B. Purchases in FY 10-11-report,staff -** Discussed earlier.

18  
19 **C. Governor's Farm Reinvestment Program dated June 21, 2011 –**

20 Nothing to report.

21  
22 **D. NRCS assistance re: Cooke Road farmland erosion issue**

23  
24 Ms. O'Hare passed around photos Ms. Saunders had taken. Ms. O'Hare said she  
25 contacted NRCS and they required erosion controls. One silt fence had been erected.

26  
27 **11. NEXT MEETING – August 11, 2011**

28  
29 **12. ADJOURNMENT**

30  
31 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Lathrop**  
32 **to adjourn the meeting at 10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

33  
34 Respectfully submitted,  
35 Cynthia A. Kleist  
36 Recording Secretary