

1 **Wallingford Conservation Commission**  
2 **REGULAR MEETING**  
3 **Thursday, September 8, 2011**  
4 **7 p.m.**  
5 **Town Hall Basement Conference Room**  
6 **45 South Main Street**  
7 **Wallingford, CT**

8  
9 **MINUTES**

10  
11  
12 **PRESENT:** Chairman Jeff Borne; Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne  
13 Saunders; Carl Arsenault; John Lathrop; Tom Pietras; Ken Ryan; Erin O'Hare,  
14 Environmental and Natural Resources Planner; Don Roe, Program Planner.

15 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioners Dianne Lendler; James Pyskaty;  
16

17 Chairman Borne called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. O'Hare reported that any  
18 action taken at the last meeting was to be redone tonight according to the Law  
19 Department as a result of the change in venue for that meeting. The only action taken  
20 had been approval of the Minutes, so the Conservation Commission would need to  
21 approve these minutes again.  
22

23 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

24 **A. Minutes of July 14, 2011**

25 **B. Minutes, August 11, 2011**  
26

27 For the July 14, 2011 Meeting Minutes, Ms. Saunders said the "corrections" on Line 32  
28 should read "(the student)" should access Field 4C with her mower.  
29

30 For the August 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes, Vice-Chair Heffernon noted that on page 3,  
31 line 14, Mr. Arsenault also helped deliver the mulch.  
32

33 **MOTION: The Conservation Commission unanimously approved the Meeting**  
34 **Minutes of July 14, 2011 and August 11, 2011 as amended.**  
35

36 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

37 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**  
38

39 1. Ravine Restoration (west of Field 7A).  
40

41 Ms. O'Hare said she and Public Works Supervisor Stephen Palermo went out to the site  
42 but could not see the eroded area because of the dense growth. *They would return after*  
43 *the frost to determine placement for erosion control.*  
44

45 2. DEP Recreation Trails Grant Program

46 a. Work progress – report, Trails Committee.

1 Trails Committee Chair Mary Heffernon said the bi-weekly progress report was not  
2 submitted by the contractor, but she had communicated with him about tree damage.  
3 (See below).

4 b. Pink Trail – major crossing – Nothing to report.

5  
6 c. Parking lots, entranceway, kiosks

7  
8 Ms. O'Hare passed around a photo of wooden timber edging as seen at Wellpoint  
9 Workstage-Connecticut property, as a possible idea at the main gateway area at Tyler  
10 Mill Preserve. *Ms. O'Hare will meet with Mr. Roe to finalize kiosks and entranceway  
11 design and signage.*

12  
13 d. Hurricane tree damage.

14  
15 The Commissioners discussed tree damage on the trails from Hurricane Irene. Vice-Chair  
16 Heffernon said the Stewards of Tyler Mill as well as some mountain bikers did a lot of  
17 trail work clearing in Tyler Mill and John Lathrop went out on Thursday and cleared the  
18 Blue Trail. She said Ms. Saunders and the volunteers completed an inventory of downed  
19 trees on the trails. Ms. Saunders indicated the reservoir was drawn down prior to the  
20 hurricane as a precautionary measure. She presented before and after photos. She said  
21 there was no siltation in the Muddy River from Hurricane Irene, but the heavy rains that  
22 followed a week later left the area with severe tree damage.

23 *Vice-Chair Heffernon will send a memo to Chairman Borne providing an update on the  
24 clean-up and a memo to Henry McCully regarding Public Works assistance with this  
25 matter. Ms. Saunders will prioritize what trails need to be worked on first.*

26  
27  
28 3. Boundary Marking – Nothing to report.

29  
30 **D. Field 4C, Managed Open Space – boundary matter – status.**

31  
32  
33 Ms. O'Hare said she and Steve Palermo, Public Works, had gone out to the property  
34 where it abuts the Doolittle property at the top of Whirlwind Hill. She passed around  
35 photos of the property where it abuts the Doolittle property. She said the maps of the  
36 corrected property boundary is completed. Ms. O'Hare said she discovered a carved  
37 path to Field 4C coming from the house next to the Doolittle property where grass  
38 clippings are being dumped illegally. *The Commission directed Ms. O'Hare to write a  
39 letter to the property owner with a copy to the Law Department.*

40  
41 **B. Fresh Meadow Swamp at Cheshire Road**

42  
43 1. Trails Grant application – filed September 1.

44 Mr. Roe spoke about the DEP Trails Grant application checklist. He said the total  
45 application was \$91,000 and the local match would be approximately \$17,000 to  
46 \$18,000. Mr. Roe said they have three years to get this completed if awarded. He said  
47 he did not expect to hear anything about awarding of the Grant application until  
48 December 2011 or January 2012. Ms. O'Hare stated the application process itself was

1 very productive as it drew together a host of resource materials which will be useful for  
2 Master Planning for the property with or without the award. *She will present maps that*  
3 *were made at the next meeting.*  
4

5 2. Report on field visit – Bamforth Preserve, Haddam, CT.  
6

7 Ms. O'Hare and Ms. Saunders passed around photos and spoke of their visit to the  
8 Bamforth Preserve, a Haddam Land Trust property. They also spoke about the tour  
9 provided by Laurie Gionetti and her husband, Land Trust Board members. Ms. Gionetti  
10 works for the DEP Recreation Trails Program. Ms. O'Hare spoke about the grassland  
11 bird habitat restoration project that was done at the Bamforth Preserve by drill seeding  
12 warm season grass into the abandoned hay field. Ms. Saunders said the entire 13 acres  
13 is path mowed around the edge, with one path cut at the middle. Ms. O'Hare said the  
14 path is four feet wide and is surrounded by woods. The mowing equipment was viewed  
15 and photos were circulated.  
16  
17

18 **C. Open Space Property at 75 Jenna Road**  
19

20 1. Trespass – dumping.  
21

22 Ms. O'Hare said she had previously contacted the Law Department and was informed to  
23 contact the Community Police. She contacted them twice, but has not gotten a  
24 response.  
25

26 **E. Invasive Species Eradication**  
27

28 1. Long-term invasive species management program – update,  
29 D. Saunders.  
30

31 Ms. Saunders said The Stewards of Tyler Mill have been working on bittersweet  
32 eradication.  
33

34 2. Tyler Mill Road – entranceway work.  
35

36 Ms. Saunders said the contractor, All Habitat, sprayed one of the previously missed  
37 islands.  
38

39 **F. Volunteer Work Program – report, K. Ryan – Nothing to report**  
40

41  
42 **4. SIGNAGE – Nothing to report.**  
43

44 **5. PROPERTY ACQUISITION – Nothing to report.**  
45

46 **A. Other.**  
47

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

1                   **7. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

2                   **A. Community Day – Sept. 17.**

3  
4 Vice-Chair Heffernon asked the Commission to volunteer for Community Day which will  
5 take place Sept. 17 from 12 to 3 p.m. Chairman Borne nominated Dianne Lendler. Vice-  
6 Chair Heffernon spoke about and passed around a photo spread in the Meriden Record-  
7 Journal Front Porch section of the paper on the volunteer planting of swamp milkweed  
8 at the Butterfly Meadow. She said the Quinnipiac River Water Authority (QRWA)  
9 received a grant to do a rapid bio-assessment on the Quinnipiac River. She asked if any  
10 of the Commissioners would be interested in doing an assessment on the Wallingford  
11 section of the River. Vice-Chair Heffernon passed around an informational flyer.

12 *Chairman Borne asked Vice-Chair Heffernon to keep the Commission posted on this*  
13 *event.*

14  
15                   **8. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

16  
17                   **A. Field 1C – erosion at entranceway.**

18  
19 Ms. Saunders said haybales have been installed in front of Field 1C. Ms. O'Hare said she  
20 visited the site with Steve Palermo, Public Works, to assess the erosion onto North  
21 Branford Rd. She said it was determined by the color of the erosion that it was coming  
22 from the cornfield and from up the farm road. Ms. O'Hare said Mr. Palermo would look  
23 into refortifying the road with gravel.

24  
25                   **B. Lease Cycle 2012-2016**

26  
27 *Ms. O'Hare will contact the Law Department for the next steps.*

28  
29                   **C. Farmland Lease Committee** - report, D. Saunders – Nothing to  
30 report.

31  
32                   **9. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

33  
34                   **A. CFPA letter re: upcoming events.**

35  
36 Chairman Borne distributed a letter to the Commission from the Land Use Law Center at  
37 Pace University School of Law which is sponsoring a free land use leadership alliance  
38 training program. Ms. O'Hare passed around the CFPA Newsletter with event notices.  
39 Vice-Chair Heffernon spoke about a Family Ramble. Ms. O'Hare gave a report on the low  
40 ropes course at Bertini Park. She said 120 students from Pond Hill School participated in  
41 the trial run in July.

42 Ms. Saunders will attend the CT Botanical Society's Goldenrod Workshop on Sunday,  
43 Sept. 11. She also spoke about a Polonia Tree which originates from Asia and is a rare  
44 specimen in this area. She said the tree had fallen over.

45  
46                   **10. NEXT MEETING – October 13, 2011**

47  
48                   **11. ADJOURNMENT**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32

**MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon, seconded by Commissioner Lathrop to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Kleist  
Recording Secretary