

**Conservation Commission  
Town of Wallingford  
September 9, 2010  
MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting of the Wallingford Conservation Commission was held on, Wednesday, September 9, 2010, in the Basement Conference Room of the Town Hall Municipal Building, 45 South Main Street, Wallingford, Connecticut.

Seated from the Commission were Chairman Jeffrey Borne, Carl Arsenault, Tom Pietras, John Lathrop, Kenneth Ryan, James Pyskaty, Dianne Saunders, and Dianne Lendler.

Town staff people present were Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner, and Recording Secretary Sonja Vining.

Absent: Mary Heffernon

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

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**A. August 18, 2010 – Special Meeting**

Mary Heffernon's notes for suggestions regarding the Minutes in general, forwarded previously to Ms. O'Hare and Recording Secretary Sonja Vining were discussed. It was agreed that action items would be highlighted in future Minutes and documents referenced would be attached.

The following changes were made to the Minutes of August 18, 2010:

- Page 2 – 2A4 – add "(attached)" after August 18, 2010
- Page 3 – B3 – add "(attached)" after 8/18/10
- Page 4 – E – add "(attached)" after August 18, 2010
- Page 4 – F- add "(attached)" after August 18, 2010
- Page 5 – 7A – delete "before-and-after"

The respective documents referenced above will be attached to the Minutes.

**MOTION:** Mr. Pyskaty to approve the Minutes of the August 18, 2010 Special Meeting as corrected.

**SECOND:** Mr. Arsenault

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT:**

**A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

1. Ravine restoration (west of Field 7A) - report

Nothing new to report.

2. DEP Recreational Trails Grant work – status

Ms. O'Hare reported that she met with Don Roe to work on writing the bid contract. Mr. Roe plans on having a meeting with the Trails Committee to work out some details of the contract. Ms. Saunders would like invasive plant eradication work prioritized by the bidder.

The Commission discussed the patch of tamarack trees at Tyler Mill. The consensus of the Commission was that open space management fund money would be used to cut trees around the tamaracks to help their survival. *Ms. O'Hare will get a quote on having the trees cut down and a 10-foot high deer fence installed and seek authorization for the funds.*

3. Entranceway – invasive plant eradication – status

The Commission gave Ms. O'Hare a few spots where the knotweed should be addressed by the contractor. *Ms. O'Hare will follow up.*

4. Sport gun incident and policy – status

Chairman Borne reported on this issue as it was discussed at the Open Space Management Meeting. The Mayor will be meeting with the Police Chief to discuss the issue further.

5. Signage re: hunting - status

Ms. O'Hare reported that Don Roe is ordering new signage that is going to be added on top of existing signage. The new signage will make it clear where no hunting is allowed.

6. Footbridge damage

The footbridge damage due to the incineration of a vehicle on September 3<sup>rd</sup> was discussed at the Open Space Management Meeting where it was determined that Henry McCully would take care of the repairs to the bridge. *Ms. O'Hare will send a memo to Henry McCully, Public Works, stating that the Commission would like to see the work done as soon as possible because it is a public safety issue.* The bridge is heavily traveled especially with the upcoming foliage season and hunting season.

7. Trash can request

Ms. O'Hare reported that Henry McCully would be placing a trashcan at the entrance to Northford Road on Friday in response to Ms. Saunder's suggestion.

**B. Farmland Lease Properties Program**

1. Field 2A, 2B, & 2C – North Branford Road stormwater drainage – report
2. Lease amendment for Fields 1B & 1C - status
3. Farmland Lease Properties Committee – report, D. Saunders
4. Letter to lessees
5. Sugarbush lease
6. Signage – CT Grown & no motorized vehicles
7. Agricultural exemption

(Section B to be discussed later in the meeting.)

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

1. Southern border – encroachment/possible tree removal

Ms. O'Hare reported that there has been some tree clearing off of Rosick Road. She believes the resident may possibly have cut down trees on town property. Ms. O'Hare directed the resident to stop further activity in this spot. *Ms. O'Hare will make arrangements to have the property surveyed by the Town.* She reminded the Commission that there are 18 trees available to be planted and asked if this would be a good location. After some discussion the Commission agreed that all 18 trees would be planted in this area in a clustered pattern. *A sub-committee consisting of Mr. Ryan, Mr. Lathrop, and Chairman Borne will visit the site with Ms. O'Hare to stake out the locations of the trees to be planted. Chairman Borne will arrange the visit by e-mail. Ms. O'Hare will obtain 18 stakes.*

2. Tree rappelling damage/trespass

Mr. Ryan stated that the spikes that have been placed in the trees need to be removed. Mr. Ryan and Ms. Heffernon were able to remove most of the ropes but were unable to remove the spikes.

**D. Bertini Park**

1. Project Adventure Ropes Course – status

John Gawlak will be getting more information together for the Mayor. The Commission wants to be sure that the activity is kept away from the hemlocks along the river. Ms. O'Hare reported that she asked Mr. Gawlak to draw up a location plan and he agreed to do so. *Ms. O'Hare will send a memo to John Gawlak requesting that she be kept up to date on the rope course plan for Bertini Park.*

#### **E. Lufbery Park**

##### 1. Frisbee course – status

Chairman Borne reported that Mr. Gawlak indicated the course is almost complete.

#### **F. Fireworks Island/Quinnipiac River & Community Lake Park**

##### 1. Canoe/kayak ramps - status

Ms. O'Hare reported that the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for construction no longer applies here. NRCS has not yet applied for the DEP permit that is required. It will be approximately 6 months to one year before the ramps are installed.

#### **G. Beseck Meadow**

##### 1. Site investigation with Peter Picone, DEP, August 26 – report

Mr. Arsenault gave a brief summary of what Mr. Picone discussed during his site investigation. Given what was discussed at the site investigation, Mr. Arsenault feels that Henry McCully should mow the whole meadow this fall which would allow the Commission to better see the topography to select a management plot. The Committee will meet to review the matter.

#### **H. Beseck Mountain**

##### 1. ATV damage

Ms. Saunders reviewed the damage she and Ms. Lendler had observed.

#### **I. 18 Mohican Lane**

##### 2. Tree removal

Ms. O'Hare reported that approximately 15 trees have been cut on this Town property off of Lynn Drive. She submitted photos of the area along with a property map. The Law Department will be handling this issue.

#### **J. Invasive Species Eradication**

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

Ms. Saunders reported that the volunteers would be resuming work this fall. She recommended the location to focus work on be the old mill site over the old dam. *Ms. Saunders would draft a letter to the President of the Rod & Gun Club and forward it to Ms. O'Hare, to be sent out by the Town, asking if they have any volunteers available to assist in this effort.*

##### 2. Site for annual expenditure

Nothing new to report.

#### **K. Mowing**

##### 1. Committee meeting, tbd

##### 2. Field investigations with Oswald Schmidt, ecologist, YSF & ES, Sept. 23 or Sept 24 in a.m.

Ms. O'Hare reported that the possible dates for the field investigation are actually Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Commission agreed that the Galko property along with Field 4C - the Beseck Meadow if time allows would be the best order of locations for Mr. Schmidt to investigate. *Ms. O'Hare will notify the Commission of the date for the field investigation.*

**L. Volunteer Work Program** – report, K. Ryan  
Nothing new to report

**M. Tree planting** – locations  
Discussed earlier.

At approximately 9:20 p.m. the fire alarm went off in the Town Hall. Everyone evacuated the building into the parking lot.

**2.B.3. Farmland Lease Properties Program**

**3. Farmland Lease Properties Committee - report, D. Saunders**

Ms. Saunders distributed a report dated 9/9/10 from the Farmland Lease Committee to the Commission, (attached). Ms. Saunders stated that she would e-mail Commissioners to take votes on items that need action on for the Farmland Lease Program.

The following items were not taken up at the meeting.

**N. Stewardship** – proposed assignment of properties

**3. PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

1. Report

**4. OPEN SPACE PLAN, 1999** – update, D. Saunders

**5. OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT MEETING** – Sept. 9 - report

**6. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

A. Family Day, September 18

**7. CORRESPONDENCE / REPORTS**

**8. NEXT MEETING** – October 14, 2010

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Mr. Pyskaty to adjourn.

SECOND: Mr. Ryan

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonja Vining  
Recording Secretary