

1 Chairman Borne expressed concern for the Grant deadline and asked Ms. O'Hare to report at the
2 next meeting about the possibility for an extension. *Ms. O'Hare will do so.*

3
4 **B. Fresh Meadow Swamp At Cheshire Road**

5 1. DEEP Recreational Trail Grant application - status

6
7 Ms. O'Hare reported Don Roe, Program Planner, had inquired of DEEP and was informed Grant
8 awards may be announced by end of October/early November.

9
10 2. Improvements - status

11 Ms. O'Hare reported that no further work has been done subsequent to the halting of mowing of
12 the cottonwoods in early September which was then rescheduled for after October 15 in the
13 interest of biodiversity. Chairman Borne asked Ms. O'Hare to pursue the mowing. *Ms. O'Hare*
14 *will do so.*

15
16 **C. Beseck Meadow**

17 1. Mowing schedule, C. Arsenault

18
19 Commissioner Arsenault reported he contacted the contractor to mow the field after October 15
20 and the contractor was to contact Henry McCully, Public Works Director. Ms. O'Hare reported
21 Nelson Cecaelli is interested in field mowing work. *Ms. O'Hare will check with Henry*
22 *McCully, Public Works Director, about this idea, then request a quote, then request Mayoral*
23 *authorization for funds accordingly.*

24
25 2. Bamboo eradication project - status

26
27 Commissioner Saunders reported she met Todd Mervosh, PhD, CT Agricultural Experiment
28 Station, at the bamboo site located along the access road. Ms. O'Hare reported the Engineering
29 Department staked the boundary in this vicinity as requested and the patch of bamboo was
30 determined to be half on Town land and half on private property with the westerly bamboo
31 located on Town land. Ms. O'Hare reported that after reviewing specifications submitted,
32 clearance has been obtained from Kurt Treiber, Risk Manager, for an arrangement to be
33 completed for the CT Ag. Station to conduct the eradication project as proposed. *Ms. O'Hare*
34 *will follow-up.*

35
36 **D. Invasive Species Eradication**

37 1. Long-term invasive species management program - D. Saunders

38
39 Commissioner Saunders reported that the Japanese knotweed at Tyler Mill Preserve main
40 entrance and on two islands in the Muddy River in that vicinity should be re-treated. *Ms.*
41 *O'Hare will pursue that.*

42
43 Commissioner Saunders spoke of other areas that could be treated as part of the annual treatment
44 program (\$2,000/yr.). She forwarded data on locations of large areas of mugwort to the state
45 agency that tracks invasive plants. She said a program about the emerald ash borer for the
46 Stewards of Tyler Mill will be conducted in the spring.

1 **E. Volunteer Work Program** - report K. Ryan

2 1. Eagle Scout project

3
4 Commissioner Ryan reported the Eagle Scout will be “pegging” the red cedar fence to be built
5 around the vernal pools and will organize his troop to gather old cedars from the forest floor for
6 materials. There is no start date as of yet.

7
8 **3. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

9
10 **A. Environmental Literacy Initiative** - report, M. Heffernon

11
12 Vice Chair Heffernon reported on a wonderful mushroom walk led by John and Barbara Lathrop.
13 Mark Cineri will lead a walk October 25 on the ridge in Tyler Mill Preserve. The Stowes will
14 lead a naturalist treasure hunt at Orchard Glen. Doug Wolff will teach and explore the sky event
15 November 19, and there is Christmas wreath making on November 28.

16
17 **4. CELEBRATE OPEN SPACE DAY - Bertini Park, October 13**

18
19 Vice Chair Heffernon reported she will lead the event walk, which begins at 10 a.m. She hoped
20 several Commissioners would attend.

21
22 **5. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

23
24 **A. Farmland Committee** - report

25
26 Chair Saunders reported a trespass issue on Field 1A by a truck last weekend and suggested a
27 gate be installed. She said lessee Cecarelli was willing to install gate posts. She said dumping
28 activity continues on Field 7B off Maltby Lane. She recommends restoration of the original gate
29 at East Center Street entrance to Field 3A as dumping activity continues there as well. *Ms.*
30 *O’Hare will pursue the gate recommendations.* Commission Arsenault reminded all that cables
31 cannot legally be use as gates.

32
33 Chair Saunders indicated repeated mowing can control mugwort which is now 25 feet deep along
34 the road side of Field 2A & 2B.

35
36 Chairman Borne expressed concern over the absence of the Farmland Lease Committee
37 recommendation report for the 2013-2017 lease cycle which was anticipated months ago. Chair
38 Saunders said she had hoped to get the draft report to Ms. O’Hare for her review this week and
39 indicated she wants the Committee to present its recommendations directly to the Law
40 Department and the Mayor as opposed to going through the Environmental Planner. Ms. O’Hare
41 indicated as the Engineering Department will be asked to complete 25 farm lease map revisions,
42 and Law Department and Purchasing Department will need to review the proposal after her
43 office has reviewed it, there is a concern time-wise. Chairman Borne indicated a Special
44 Meeting may need to be scheduled to consider the Committee’s report for approval. *Ms. O’Hare*
45 *was directed to notify the Chairman when the Committee’s report is submitted and a Special*
46 *Meeting will then be set.*

1 **B. Farmland Lease Cycle 2013-2017 - status**

2
3 Ms. O'Hare indicated as the Farmland Lease Committee will be suggesting a significant amount
4 of changes to the leases she has held off completing the bid preparation awaiting the
5 Committee's suggestions but will need to move forward. (Discussed further above.)
6

7 **C. Field 18A - 995 East Center Street - Environmental Review Team site walk, Oct. 3 -**
8 report
9

10 Chairman Borne asked for reports from all in attendance at the ERT event held October 3:
11 Commissioner Saunders, Heffernon, Arsenault, Pietras, Lathrop, and Ms. O'Hare attended. The
12 ERT team met with Town department representatives and commissioners in Town Hall to review
13 background prior to the site walk which covered almost the entire 93-acre site. Lessee and
14 former property owner, Warren Williams had joined the site walk. ERT Coordinator, Elaine
15 Sych, indicated a draft ERT report submittal could be expected in late November or December.
16 Ms. O'Hare indicated that, if need be, lease bids could be advertised with the bid for this
17 property to follow at a later date to allow consideration of the findings in the ERT report.
18 Commissioners Saunders and Pietras expressed disappointment that the ERT team did not have a
19 representative present knowledgeable about pasturage. They had also requested a
20 recommendation to control the milkweed spreading on the back hay field.
21

22 Commissioner Saunders would like the ERT draft report to not be publicly released as it may
23 possibly influence proposal by bidders. Chairman Borne requested Ms. O'Hare ask the ERT
24 coordinator if the Draft ERT report can be reviewed by the Conservation Commissioner prior to
25 its release as a final report or is there just one report. *Ms. O'Hare will do so.*
26

27 **6. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE - revisions**

28
29 **A. Vision Statement, Purpose & Open Space Defined**

30
31 (Discussion of proposed revisions not taken up.)
32

33 **B. State Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) - staff**

34
35 Ms. O'Hare reported on a review of the Draft State POCD completed by the Water Division, the
36 Planning Department, Program Planning, the Mayor's Office, and her office. Comments were
37 submitted by the Mayor and Kacie Costello, Acting Town Planner, as testimony at the Public
38 Hearing held October 5 at North Haven Town library. Ms. O'Hare had forwarded her comments
39 previously to Chairman Borne. Chairman Borne requested a copy of the testimony as submitted.
40 *Ms. O'Hare will do so.*
41

42 **7. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

43
44 **A. CACIWC Environmental Conference, Meriden, Nov. 17.**

45
46 Commissioner Pietras will attend.
47
48
49
50
51
52

1 **B. Dog Park Proposal - Park & Rec.**

2
3 Ms. O'Hare reported on a proposal under the Park and Recreation Department to establish a dog
4 park at Community Lake or at Garden Road promoted by a private group led by Mark Semerau.
5 Vice Chair Heffernon indicated she would like to join Ms. O'Hare at the October 17 site walk in
6 this regard.

7
8 Chairman Borne indicated there was a request for an additional agenda item regarding chainsaw
9 training and asked for a consensus.

10
11 **MOTION: Commissioner Lathrop to add Chainsaw Training to the Agenda. Vice Chair**
12 **Heffernon seconded. Vote: Unanimous.**

13
14 Vice Chair Heffernon reported on a proposed Chainsaw Level II Training class which will cost
15 \$665. The Commission approved the proposal. Ms. O'Hare will request the Mayor's
16 authorization for the expense to cover 7 people plus 2 observers to be held in Durham as guests
17 of the Durham Conservation Commission. Commissioner Saunders would like the record to
18 reflect her request regarding any future chainsaw training that the Commission be involved in its
19 planning as a customized program would be preferable to a canned program.

20
21 Ms. O'Hare passed out Southwest District Conservation newsletters and a CT Butterfly
22 Association program notice.

23
24 Ms. O'Hare and Commissioner Saunders reported briefly about the incident of unpermitted
25 aquatic herbiciding of Spring Lake.

26
27 Commissioner Saunders shared photos of unusual white foam in Mackenzie Reservoir and a
28 foam pile on the Muddy River near Woodhouse Avenue which she has contacted the DEEP
29 about.

30
31 **8. NEXT MEETING -November 8, 2012**

32
33 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

34
35 **Chairman Borne adjourned the Meeting at 9:15 p.m.**