

1 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISISON**

2 **REGULAR MEETING**

3 **Thursday, November 8, 2012**

4 **7 P.M.**

5 **Town Hall, Basement Conference Room**

6 **45 South Main Street**

7 **Wallingford, CT.**

8 **MINUTES**

9  
10 **PRESENT:** Chairman Jeff Borne; Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne Saunders;  
11 Dianne Lendler; Ken Ryan; Tom Pietras; Carl Arsenaault; and Erin O'Hare, Environmental and  
12 Natural Resources Planner.

13 **NOT PRESENT:** Jim Pyskaty and John Lathrop.

14 Chairman Borne called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

15  
16 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

17 **A. Minutes, October 11, 2012**

18 On page 3, line 13, Vice-Chair Heffernon said the correct spelling is "Ceneri."

19 On line 14, reword to "Doug Wolff will lead and explore the sky."

20 Line 26 should read "Committee Chair Saunders."

21 On page 1, line 33 & 34, Commissioner Saunders said a steward, not a contractor, was to paint  
22 the white square around the lilac blaze as requested by Commissioner Lathrop.

23 Ms. O'Hare said she contacted the contractor and the blaze edges were repainted black.

24 On page 3, line 37, Commissioner Saunders said the lease cycle was not anticipated months  
25 ago, but was anticipated in August.

26 On page, 5, line 18, Commissioner Saunders said she was not talking about future chainsaw  
27 training, but if there is training of any kind, there should be input of the full Commission  
28 including the Stewards of Tyler Mill before a decision is made.

1 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Ryan second by Commissioner Arsenault to**  
2 **approve the October 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed**  
3 **unanimously.**

4 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

5 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

6 1. DEP Recreational Trails Grant Program

7 a. Additional contract work (Part A & Part B) – report, Trails  
8 Committee

9 Ms. O'Hare said the first contract is waiting to be completed. She said there has been some  
10 progress with the mowing of the invasive area near the Tyler Mill bridge at a cost of \$1,800,  
11 leaving a \$700 balance.

12 Ms. O'Hare distributed the quarterly Progress Report for the State prepared by Mr. Roe who  
13 stated in the report that all of the projects are 90 to 95% completed. She said the anticipated  
14 completion date is February 3, 2013, but noted the report indicates an extension may be  
15 required because of Hurricane Sandy.

16 Regarding the additional contracted work, Vice-Chair Heffernon said the only thing remaining is  
17 the installation of the Lilac trail head sign which can't be installed until Public Works moves the  
18 current regulation sign. Ms. O'Hare said the sign was bolted in but the tree has grown around  
19 the bolts. Vice-Chair Heffernon suggested asking the contractor to remove the sign from the  
20 tree.

21 *Ms. O'Hare will contact Public Works to remove the sign.*

22 b. Parking lots, entranceways, and kiosks – status

23 Ms. O'Hare said she, Program Planner Don Roe, Town Engineer John Thompson and Assistant  
24 Town Engineer Rob Baltramaitis, met for an hour and a half regarding the Main Entranceway  
25 improvements. She said the Engineering Department agreed to taking the schematic drawing  
26 she sent to them, doing survey work and putting the grades on the drawing so Public Works  
27 can determine how much grading work needs to be done, and how much gravel will be needed  
28 to complete the work. The completed map is awaited.

29 Ms. O'Hare said the quote on the kiosks originally came in at \$850 apiece and this work was  
30 modified to include several design changes including the installation of plexiglas on the glass  
31 and a brochure compartment on the side. She said because of these changes, the quote  
32 increased from \$850 apiece to \$1,160 apiece which includes a \$150 installation cost. She said  
33 two kiosks are needed. Ms. O'Hare said the third project is fixing the kiosks which was  
34 damaged. The contractor stated he can complete this project in two weeks. Ms. O'Hare said  
35 there is \$12,000 in match money in the Open Space Resources Management Fund, match to  
36 the \$48,000 DEP grant. Chairman Borne said even though the cost went up, the money should  
37 be spent. Ms. O'Hare said the kiosks will be installed at Vietnam Veterans Park, the main  
38 entrance to Tyler Mill Preserve at Northford Road and Maltby Lane.

1 Ms. O'Hare discussed the revised Tyler Mill Preserve map showing the Blue/Black Trail and the  
2 Yellow and Lilac Trail head sign. Ms. Saunders suggested putting in a section of the emergency  
3 access road (in woods) which was left off the map and mark it with road closure colors.

4 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lendler second by Commissioner Saunders to**  
5 **study the creation of the Gold Trail to enter Tyler Mill Preserve from the Woodhouse**  
6 **Avenue/soccer field parking lot and a kiosk at this location. The motion passed**  
7 **unanimously.**

8 Commissioner Saunders noted that volunteers have offered to construct a boardwalk for this  
9 suggested trail. Trail Committee Chair Heffernon indicated the Trails Committee will address this  
10 matter when the current grant work has been completed.

11 *Ms. O'Hare will have revisions done including name, "Tyler Mill Preserve," and will have small*  
12 *copies made for distribution.*

13 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Arsenault to**  
14 **approve quote for the kiosks. The motion passed unanimously.**

15 *Ms. O'Hare will get a quote on the large name sign and the regulation signs for the kiosks which*  
16 *will include "No digging."*

17 Ms. O'Hare distributed the quarterly Progress Report for the State prepared by Mr. Roe who  
18 stated in the report that all of the projects are 90 to 95% completed. She said the anticipated  
19 completion date is February 3, 2013, but noted an extension may be required because of  
20 Hurricane Sandy.

21 Ms. O'Hare passed around the map of Beseck Meadow that shows half the bamboo growing on  
22 the Town's property, half on private property as recently surveyed.

23 1. ATV issue –D. Saunders

24 Ms. Saunders reported vandalism on Maltby Lane in the summer. She said the Police notified  
25 Public Works and they had installed another concrete block. She suggested installing another  
26 barrier because there still is illegal access occurring. *Ms. O'Hare will ask Public Works for more*  
27 *barriers at the Maltby Lane parking area by the ravine.* Ms. O'Hare will go out with Public  
28 Works Director Henry McCully to pick a spot to install the barriers.

29 **B. Fresh Meadow Swamp At Cheshire Road**

30 1. DEEP Recreational Trails Grant application – status.

31 Ms. O'Hare reported the DEEP has denied the Town's application request for Trails Grant  
32 (\$91,000) at Fresh Meadow Swamp at Cheshire Road.

33 2. Improvements – status

34 Ms. O'Hare said since the DEEP grant was denied, the \$6,000 in the budget can be spent on  
35 improvements at Fresh Meadow instead of at Tyler Mill. She said this money can be used for  
36 beautification, trails, signage, etc. Chairman Borne asked the Commissioners for ideas. *Ms.*

1 *O'Hare will get a cost-estimate from Public Works Director Henry McCully for materials and*  
2 *installation of the planned ADA (Americans with Disability Act) trail along Cheshire Road and a*  
3 *proposed ADA trail to provide accessibility to the pond to be stone dust. Ms. O'Hare will also*  
4 *inquire about installing a secured port-a-potty at the site.*

5 **C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park – water main repair**

6 Ms. Saunders spoke about the water main break at the Park. She said the Muddy River was  
7 brown all the way to Woodhouse Avenue but after Dayton Pond, the water was clear. She said  
8 the Town opened up the pipe near the railroad trestle to back flush out into the pasture on  
9 Field 18A. Ms. O'Hare presented "before and after" photos of the water main break which  
10 occurred about two weeks ago. She said the Town put down straw mulch to remediate the  
11 work area in the wet meadow. She said the 30-inch pipe which broke, was dug out, gravel put  
12 underneath and a collar put on it. Ms. O'Hare said filter fabric approximately 30 feet long was  
13 installed in the restored stream over the work area to protect this area from erosion.

14 **D. Invasive Species Eradication**

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

16 Ms. Saunders said she had attended a CT Invasive Plant Species Working Group conference a  
17 few weeks ago. She said Todd Mervosh of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, told her he  
18 would not be able to work on the bamboo issue at Beseck Meadow until spring. Ms. Saunders  
19 said there were two keynote speakers at the seminar, one of them, Marilyn Jordan, of the  
20 Nature Conservancy, spoke about "Novel Ecosystems & the Forgotten Food Web" and her  
21 theories that invasive plants are interrupting the evolutionary process causing the native insect  
22 population to stop evolving and that the dramatic increase in allergies amongst the human  
23 population is related to the current prevalence of invasive plants. Ms. Saunders said her group  
24 will start focusing on invasive plant eradication in November.

25 The following item was requested to be added to the agenda by request of Ms. O'Hare:

26 **Conservation Commission Meeting Schedule for 2013.**

27 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Ryan second by Commissioner Arsenault to**  
28 **add the Conservation Commission Meeting Schedule for 2013 to the Agenda. The**  
29 **motion passed unanimously.**

30 The Commissioners agreed to continue meeting on the second Thursdays of each month and  
31 the draft calendar was approved.

32 **E. Volunteer Work Program** -report, K. Ryan

33 1. Eagle Scout project

34 Mr. Ryan said the Eagle Scout project is well under way. He passed around photos of the buck-  
35 and-rail fence work done to date by the Eagle Scouts for the vernal pool area at Tyler Mill  
36 Preserve.

37 **3. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

1       **A. Environmental Literacy Initiative** – report, M. Heffernon

2       Vice-Chair Heffernon reported the Single Stream Recycling Program on Monday night was well-  
3       attended. Upcoming events: a Naturalist Hike will take place this Saturday morning at Orchard  
4       Glen; on November 28, a wreath making program will take place at the Library; the film  
5       “Winged Migration, will be shown on Saturday, November 17 at the Library. There will also be a  
6       children’s bird feeder workshop on that date.

7       **4. CELEBRATE OPEN SPACE DAY – Bertini Park, Oct 13** – report, M. Heffernon

8       Vice-Chair Heffernon said she and Jim Pyskaty hosted the Celebrate Open Space Day on Oct. 13  
9       at Bertini Park but only two members of the public attended. She suggested eliminating the  
10       program because of continued poor attendance.

11       **5. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

12       **A. Farmland Committee** – report

13       **B. Farmland Lease Cycle 2013-2017** – status.

14       Committee Chair Saunders presented to Ms. O’Hare the Committee’s proposed lease maps and  
15       the maintenance keys to most leased fields to Ms. O’Hare. Maintenance keys are proposed to be  
16       included in lease bid “Comments” under “M”. She said she did not have the map to Field 5A  
17       (Cooke Road). Ms. O’Hare said the lease term ends Dec. 31. She said she needed the notes  
18       from the last Farmland Lease Committee meeting with Sal Amadeo, Purchasing Director in order  
19       to proceed with the bidding process regarding suggested qualifications. Ms. O’Hare has  
20       requested this document monthly since the May meeting. Chair Saunders will fax Ms. O’Hare  
21       the two-page document before they meet. Ms. O’Hare inquired as to the Committee’s proposed  
22       recommendation for Field 7A. Chair Saunders said the Committee supports the NRCS  
23       suggestions for use as hayfield, pastureland, or deep zone tillage, with a level spreader to be  
24       installed by Public Works along the eastern edge of the field when they re-build Northford Road  
25       and for erosion controls and a planned buffer to be installed by the future lessee along the  
26       western woods edge. Ms. O’Hare inquired if the Committee would like to lease the sugarbush,  
27       and Chair Saunders said yes. Ms. O’Hare asked Chair Saunders to submit to her via a fax copy  
28       of the proposed “Maintenance Protocols” and a list of those fields proposed to be leased  
29       together. *Chair Saunders will do so asap.*

30       *Ms. O’Hare will review documents submitted and set a meeting with the Committee for next*  
31       *week.*

32       Ms. O’Hare indicated that the delayed submittal has backed up the bid process and as a result,  
33       lease properties may go unleased for an interim period but, as most are hay, it is not critical.

34       Chair Saunders reported that Trainable A did not remove some of the large haybales from Field  
35       3A and did not trim the hedgerows and did not sickle bar Field 19A although this had been  
36       requested and anticipated. *Ms. O’Hare will forward a letter to lessee requesting work to be*  
37       *done.*

1 Regarding Field 18A, Chair Saunders suggested not changing the lease requirements next  
2 week, and extending the lease for three months on Field 18A so that the cows do not have to be  
3 relocated.

4 **C. Field 7D – ATV issue – Discussed above.**

5 **D. D. Field 9A – access by Water Division**

6 Ms. O'Hare said the Water Division had driven across Field 9A for the water main repair work  
7 but is not interested in having an access clause added to Field 9A as the current lease language  
8 suffices. Ms. Saunders said one of the Stewards has volunteered to monitor the field for  
9 invasive plants in the area of disturbance for the water main repair work.

10 **6. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE – revisions**

11 **A. Revisions: "Vision Statement," "Purpose & Open Space Defined"**

12 Tabled to the December 13 meeting.

13 **7. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

14 **A. CACIWC Environmental Conference, Meriden, Nov. 17**

15 Commissioner Pietras will attend.

16 **B. Dog Park Proposal – Park & Rec. (tentative)**

17 Ms. O'Hare said that she, Vice-Chair Heffernon and a group led by dog park advocate Mark  
18 Semerau working under the auspices of the Park & Recreation Department, went to the  
19 proposed dog park site by Community Lake. She said the Planning Department has indicated  
20 that zoning regulations may need to be changed to allow a dog park.

21 **C. CT Butterfly Association Newsletter, Fall 2012**

22 Ms. O'Hare passed around the 2012 Fall newsletter.

23 **D. CFPA Meeting re: abating ATV use on National Scenic Trail (date tbd)**

24 Ms. O'Hare said she received a call from the CFPA regarding the extensive erosion on the  
25 National Scenic Trail as a result of ATV use. She said the CFPA will be requesting a group  
26 meeting with the towns that border the Trail. She said no date has been set as of yet.

27 **E. Institute of Invasive Bamboo – regional meeting re: legislation, Orange**  
28 **Community Center, Orange, Nov. 13, 7-9 p.m.**

29 Ms. O'Hare spoke about the above meeting to be held on the invasive bamboo problem and  
30 towns in New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania that have passed ordinances  
31 against the bamboo. CT legislation is sought. Ms. O'Hare said this initiative is being  
32 championed by an Orange resident whose property has been devalued by invasive bamboo.

33 Commissioner Saunders may be able to attend.

1 **8. NEXT MEETING - December 13, 2012**

2 **9. Adjournment**

3 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Ryan to**  
4 **adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

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6 Respectfully submitted,

7 Cynthia A. Kleist

8 Recording Secretary

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