

1 **APPROVED MINUTES**

2 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

3 **REGULAR MEETING**

4 **Thursday, November 9, 2017**

5 **Basement Conference Room, Town Hall**
6 **45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT**

7 **MINUTES**

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9
10 **PRESENT:** Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne Saunders; Dianne Lendler; Carl Arsenault; Tom
11 Pietras; Jeff Borne; Erin O'Hare Environmental Planner; Cynthia Kleist, Recording Secretary; Public: Mike
12 Miller and David Bedell.

13 **NOT PRESENT:** Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Commissioners Tom Pietras; Mark Ceneri; Jim Pyskaty

14 Chair Heffernon called the Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and took the agenda in the following order.

15 **A. Discussion of posting of the Minutes**

16 The Commission agreed to not post the Draft Minutes to the Town website but to post in the Town Clerk's
17 office and make them available in the Environmental Planner's office. The Approved Minutes will be posted
18 to the Town website. *Ms. O'Hare will consult with Corporation Counsel Janis Small on this matter.* The
19 Commission concurred.

20 **2.PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

21 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

- 22 1. Kiosk – construction and replacement sign

23 Ms. O'Hare said the Purchasing Department had indicated that Bob Cassella received the bid in the mail on
24 November 1, that Parks & Recreation Director John Gawlak put out and installation was supposed to be "in
25 two weeks".

26 **Motion: A motion by Commissioner Saunders second by Commissioner Arsenault to direct Ms.**
27 **O'Hare to purchase a replacement sign with Parks & Recreation funds and to allow her to pay**
28 **for correction strips to go on the other two kiosks to remove "Uncle B's Bait Shop" (which is**
29 **not in business) instead directing people to go on the Web. If funding is not available from**
30 **Parks & Recreation, Conservation Commission Office Supply funding will be used.**

31 Ms. O'Hare noted it would cost \$175 for the correction strips.

32 **Vote: Unanimous**

33 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 34 **B. Minutes, Regular Meeting, October 12, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**

1 Page 1, line 21, should read "would cost" \$80,000 a year; on page 3, Item 2.A.2, top of page 3, line 1,
2 should read that the Stewards of Tyler Mill put down the wood chips not the Town.

3 **Motion: Commissioner Borne made a motion to approve the October 12, 2017 Meeting**
4 **Minutes as amended. Commissioner Lendler seconded the motion**

5 **Vote: Unanimous**

6 **2.PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

7 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

8 2. Stewards of Tyler Mill – report, D. Saunders & D. Lendler

9 Ms. Saunders distributed her report. She noted a lot a trail work was done and said a lot of trees were
10 downed after the wind and rain events from the past few months. Commissioner Saunders said the
11 Ambassadors distributed 25 out of the 30 hunting notice flyers with maps during the first two weeks of the
12 hunting season. Commissioners Saunders noted the planting sites were good and the Ag Students have
13 been phenomenal and have been cutting autumn olive. Commissioner Saunders pointed out the water
14 level in the Muddy River is down and the ground is dry. She spoke about the road edge work and noted
15 the maple-leaf vibernum berries were vibrant this year along the road edge. She provided a photo in her
16 report. Commissioner Saunders thanked Commissioner Mark Ceneri for his donation of landscape fabric
17 which the Stewards installed in front of the rocks. She passed around a photo.

18 3. Tyler Mill Preserve Management Planning Committee

19 a. Nov. 9 meeting, 9 a.m. – report

20 Commissioner Saunders said the Committee is on target time-wise and a lot of progress has been made.
21 She distributed copies of the status report to Chair Heffernon and Ms. O'Hare. She asked the Commission
22 for input. She noted the Committee has been going through the old survey and studies, taking the
23 recommendations and compiling them; determining which maps are to be included and working on the
24 geographic footprint. She said the Committee is also working on a list of items besides recreation for the
25 Contractor which include management and current infrastructure. The Committee is still working on
26 funding. She said if they can't get outside funding, then the plan would have to be done piecemeal by our
27 budget over a two to three-year period. She said she needs to know from the Commission, key issues that
28 need attention now, citing for example, horses and bikes on the ridge creating rubble on the Orange Trail.
29 She also noted Fields 7E and 7F at the entrance of Northford Road on the eastside of the river which also
30 need immediate attention.

31 Commissioner Saunders said the plan will probably be implemented in two years and said the plan should
32 be detailed enough so it can be followed like a recipe but also with priorities given available resources
33 being taken into account. Commissioner Borne suggested the Plan should state goals and objectives are
34 for Tyler Mill. Ms. O'Hare pointed out there is only \$6,000 in the budget each year. She said she would ask
35 if the \$6,000 could be saved to put forward to the next year to build it up to \$18,000 after three years.
36 Commissioner Saunders suggested breaking the plan up into a phases i.e, Phase 1 or Phase 2.

1 Chair Heffernon said the Conservation Commission's entire budget shouldn't be spent on Tyler Mill.
2 Commissioner Saunders said the goal is to have an RFQ by the end of February 2018 and to put out the
3 writing of the plan.

4 4. Chipmunk Study – status

5 The Commissioners agreed to ask Dennis Richardson to come to a Conservation Commission meeting to
6 report on his chipmunk study and to also submit a brief written report. Ms. O'Hare said Mr. Richardson
7 received permission to eradicate 30 chipmunks as part of the study which ends this month (November).

8 *Ms. O'Hare will follow-up.*

9 **B. Beseck Meadow**

10 1. Town signage relocation

11 Ms. O'Hare said she contacted Henry McCully, Public Works Director, who informed her the relocation of
12 the sign will be addressed on Monday, November 13.

13 2. Bamboo letter – nothing to report.

14

15 **C. Fresh Meadows**

16 1. CT Recreational Trails Program Project – construction status

17 Ms. O'Hare said construction is progressing at a fast rate. She noted that Running Brook Farm, LLC was
18 the low bidder. She said the bed of the trails were cut down to eight inches, was dug out and processed
19 stone was laid. She said the south side of the trail is being worked on first. Ms. O'Hare said some
20 modifications were made, i.e. the trail near the erratic boulder went two and a half feet to the boulder and
21 had to be moved back and the bench, was moved so fill didn't have to be installed. Ms. O'Hare spoke
22 about the pine trees in the Butterfly Loop, noting one tree would have to be cut down so the trail was
23 moved out. She spoke about Ken Ryan's tree and re-routing the trail to a nearby knoll so the water can be
24 seen.

25 **D. Lufbery Park – alteration activity remediation**

26 Chair Heffernon reported there has been no progress in five months. She said she e-mailed John Gawlak,
27 Parks & Recreation Director regarding this issue.

28 **E. Marcus Cooke - trail clearing**

29 Chair Heffernon said she received a call regarding trees down on the trail. She said she and Commissioner
30 Arsenault took care of this last weekend. She said the trail needs to be re-blazed. Commissioner Saunders
31 said this would be a good project for the Quinnipiac Big Event.

32 **F. Property stewardship – roles – report tabled to the December meeting.**

33 Commissioner Lendler said this Stewardship involves people taking ownership of certain properties. *Ms.*
34 *O'Hare will type the list of property assignments for the December meeting.*

1 **G. Mowing**

2 Ms. O'Hare said she received a letter from Steve Palermo, Public Works General Foreman, asking what
3 fields needed to be mowed. Commissioner Saunders suggested mowing Fields 7E and 7F and Field 4C on
4 the top of Scard Road. Commissioner Arsenault spoke about mowing the field at 1245 Whirlwind Hill Road,
5 which Termini used to mow. *Ms. O'Hare will ask the Water Division about mowing this field and will follow-*
6 *up with Mr. Palermo.*

7 **H. Other properties**

8 Ms. O'Hare said she all the departments received correspondence from the Mayor's Office regarding Town-
9 owned property on 13 Mansion Road which the Town has been asked to consider for possible uses.

10 *The Commission directed Ms. O'Hare to forward a memorandum to the Mayor requesting information as to*
11 *which Town-owned lands are referred to the Conservation Commission for review and which Town-owned*
12 *lands are not; as this property was not; why this property does not appear on the official Open Space Map*
13 *or on databases of Town land; and clarification as to the Town's process for evaluation of disposition of*
14 *Town properties. Ms. O'Hare will follow-up.*

15 **3.FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

16 **A. Field 1A, No. Branford Rd.**

17 1. Autumn olive in conservation management area

18 Ms. O'Hare said the field was mowed and she received a complaint from a hunter. Commissioner Saunders
19 said the farmer was told to wait a few weeks until November and said the farmer waited to mow until last
20 week. She said he has not yet mowed the top of Field 1C or 1B area.

21 2. Request re: fall mowing & hunting use

22 Ms. O'Hare said she would like to see the mowing to be done in late November or winter for migrant birds
23 or after a killing frost. Commissioner Arsenault indicated that is also DEEP procedure.

24 **B.Field 4A, Whirlwind Hill Road & 19A, Scard Rd. – maintenance**

25 Commissioner Saunders said as of last week, Field 4A had not been mowed in two years and is overdue.
26 *Ms. O'Hare will send the lessee a letter.* Commissioner Saunders said the hayfield was mowed on Sept. 29
27 or Sept. 30. She noted the hay bales were removed from the field a week and a half ago.

28 **C. Field 6D, off Cooke Rd. – property boundary**

29 Ms. O'Hare said the Engineering Dept. is working on this and once completed, Commissioner Saunders will
30 mark trees on the property line.

31 **D. Field 8B, Northford Rd – mowing and field edge maintenance**

32 Commissioner Saunders said the Stewards worked in the Lilac Trail edge in field 8Band in the conservation
33 management area and did the autumn olive and the multiflora rose. She said the Lessee has to remove the

1 autumn olive and mugwort in the area by the gate entrance. Commissioner Saunders said when she was
2 on the site with the students they saw a 30-inch milk snake in the conservation buffer.

3 **D. Field 18A, 995C East Center St./Tamarac Swamp Rd. – proposed Request For**
4 **Qualifications**

5 Ms. O'Hare said there have been regular meetings. She said she gave the map of Field 18A to Engineering
6 and one iteration was done and another iteration will also be done. Ms. O'Hare said everything is set to go
7 out but there are two glitches: the Water Division said this land was Class II so now the State Dept. of
8 Health should be consulted regarding change of use and leasing

9 Commissioner Saunders pointed out there are such lands statewide, and we have leased such Class I and
10 Class II lands for a long time with excellent records.

11 **E. Farmland Committee – monitoring reports**

12 Commissioner Saunders said the reports are in the works.

13 **4. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

14 **A. Vehicle idling initiative**

15 Chair Heffernon passed around the vehicle idling information flyer that was included in the Wallingford
16 Electric Division bills. She said the schools have done well and that she also sent a Letter to the Editor
17 about vehicle idling. Chair Heffernon said the Schools Supt. is working on new vehicle idling signage for
18 the schools. She said all the school bus entrances have the vehicle idling signage but only three or four
19 parental drop-off areas have the signage.

20 **B. Student Volunteer Fair, Sheehan High School, Oct. 24, - report, D. Lendler**

21 Commissioner Lendler gave her report. She said three students contacted her for community service and
22 the senior who did the organizing spoke to her. She said she will contact Lyman Hall High School.

23 **C. Quinnipiac University, "Big Event", April 7**

24 Chair Heffernon said she has heard from the student in charge of the "Big Event". She asked the
25 Commissioners to think about projects for the students.

26 Chair Heffernon said she sent emails to all the Commissioners informing them that the Charter Revision
27 question passed.

28 **5. BY-LAWS – review/revision**

29 Chair Heffernon also asked the Commissioners to review the By-Laws for possible revision suggestions for
30 the December meeting. Commissioner Borne suggested putting this topic at the top of the agenda.

31 **6. 2018 MEETING SCHEDULE**

1 **Motion: A motion by Commissioner Borne, second by Commissioner Arsenault to accept the**
2 **2018 Meeting Schedule as presented which is as follows:**

3 **January 11; February 8; March 8; April 12; May 10; June 14; July 12; August 9; September 13;**
4 **October 11; November 8 and December 13.**

5 **Vote: Unanimous**

6 All meetings take place in the Basement Level Conference Room, Town Hall, 45 South Main Street on the
7 second Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

8 **7. OTHER TOPICS – None.**

9 **8. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

10 **A. Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program – applications deadline,**
11 **2/28/18**

12 Ms. O'Hare said she received a letter from Mayor Dickinson on Oct. 26th regarding the Open Space and
13 Watershed Acquisition program which was sent to all Town Departments. She said the Mayor wanted the
14 departments to inform him of properties the Town could acquire. She said the deadline to apply for the
15 Grant is February 2, 2018. The Commission discussed some possible properties for sale.

16 **B. Community Lake – Parks & Recreation Dept. – IWWC application – proposed tree cutting**

17 Chair Heffernon reported the thinning of trees which will be discussed at the Dec. 6 Inland Wetlands
18 meeting. She and Commissioner Arsenault will mark the trees as requested by the Parks & Recreation
19 Dept.

20 **C. CT Butterfly Association – *Newsletter*, fall 2017, received 10/31/17 – not distributed.**

21 **D. Quinnipiac River Watershed Association – membership appeal**

22 **Motion: A motion by Commissioner Borne second by Commissioner Arsenault to approve the**
23 **Conservation Commission paying \$40 as an annual municipal membership on behalf of the**
24 **municipality of Wallingford.**

25 **Vote: Unanimous**

26 **E. CFPA – appeal – No action taken.**

27 **F. Memorandum from Mayor's Office, re: Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Grant**
28 **Program, dated 10/25/17 – discussed above.**

29 **G. CT Association of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions, Inc., (CACIWC)**

30 **40th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference, Radisson Hotel, Cromwell, Nov. 18, 2017**

31 Ms. O'Hare said she Chair Heffernon and one member from the Inland Wetlands Commission will attend.

1 **H. North American Wetlands Conservation Act Small Grants Program** – matching grants
2 program for projects involving restoration/enhancement and/or establishment of wetlands and
3 associated upland habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds, deadline
4 10/19/18.

5 Ms. O'Hare said Program Planning sent her this information. She said this is a matching grant program for
6 projects involving restoration/enhancement and/or establishment of wetlands and associated upland
7 habitat for the benefit of all wetland associated migratory birds. She said a list of the birds was also
8 provided. Ms. O'Hare said grant program would be for next year. Ms. O'Hare said this grant applies
9 primarily the support of duck hunting.

10 **I. CFPA event, - "Walk the Woods with a Forester"**, Highlawn Forest, 16 Meriden Rd,
11 Rockfall, CT, Sat. Nov. 18, 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

12 Chair Heffernon spoke about this event.

13 **J. Fall landscaping** – hand out

14 Ms. O'Hare showed and spoke about a fall landscaping hand out in her local newspaper which was pro-
15 nature for yard maintenance.

16 **9. NEXT MEETING** – Dec. 14, 2017

17 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

18 Commissioner Borne made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 9:04 p.m. Commissioner Arsenault
19 seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

20

21 Respectfully submitted,

22 Cynthia A. Kleist

23 Recording Secretary

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