

1 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **REGULAR MEETING**

3 **Thursday, January 12, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.**

4 **Town Hall – Basement Conference Room**

5 **45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT**

6 **MINUTES**

7
8 **PRESENT:** Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne Saunders; Carl Arsenault; Dianne Lendler; Jeff
9 Borne; Mark Ceneri; Jim Pyskaty; Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner; Public: Mike Miller, President of
10 Sleeping Giant Park Association; Bruce Conroy and Aili McKeen.

11 **NOT PRESENT:** Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Commissioner Tom Pietras.

12 Chair Heffernon called the Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

13 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

14 **A. Minutes**, Regular Meeting, Dec. 8, 2016

15 Page 1, line 27, should be the "Red" and "Red Black Dot Trails".

16 **Motion: A motion by Commissioner Pyskaty second by Commissioner Ceneri to approve the**
17 **January 12, 2017 WCC Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.**

18 Chair Heffernon introduced Mike Miller, Bruce Conroy and Aili McKeen from the public.

19 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

20 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

21 **1. Restoration of paintball-damaged area**

22 Commissioner Saunders said they have been spending time on the Purple Trail but will get this done by
23 March.

24 **2. Report on emergency numbers, M. Heffernon**

25 Chair Heffernon said she is in the process of ordering new signs for the missing numbers the Stewards
26 discovered on the trail.

27 **3. Stewards of Tyler Mill, D. Saunders & D. Lendler**

28 Commissioner Saunders said the Stewards worked clearing the trail edges of multiflora, oriental bittersweet
29 and Japanese barberry, primarily at the Red Trail North, Red Black Dot South and Purple Trail. She said the
30 Stewards used hand tools to remove some felled trees and re-painted the edge of the step footbridge
31 bright yellow. She said the last two patches of mugwort were removed. She said people are feeding

1 animals at the Northford Road entrance, at the bridge and at the Tamarac Swamp Road entrance. She said
2 people are leaving packaged meat still in the styrofoam tray, and bakery rolls which are drawing
3 scavengers.

4 Commissioner Saunders said the missing wood duck box at the Interpretive Trail #9 reappeared after
5 being missing from several months. Commissioner Saunders said Tom will rebuild the box. Commissioner
6 Saunders spoke about illicit behavior at the Northford Road parking area.

7 Commissioner Saunders spoke about ATV tracks in late December and subsequent damage. She said the
8 Stewards replaced six damaged hunting signs. She said the Stewards annual meeting will take place the
9 end of January.

10 **4. Habitat survey – request for quotes**

11 Ms. O'Hare said her RFQ has not as yet been sent out.

12 **B. Fresh Meadows**

- 13 1. CT Recreational Trails Program grant work
14 a. Municipal permits
15 b. Contract bid

16 Ms. O'Hare said there has been no progress to report since last time. She said a quarterly report has to be
17 done and Don Roe, Program Planner will assist her with it. She said the DEEP declared Oct. 24, 2016 as
18 the start date. She said this is a two-year program and must be completed in that time frame.

19 **C. New England Trail – signage, M. Heffernon**

20 Chair Heffernon said it was discussed putting signs where the trail heads are: RT. 68, two signs, near
21 Tilcon; Cliffside Drive and Howd Road, Durham, two signs. She said the CT Forestry and Park Association
22 will make and install the signs at no cost.

23 **D. Open Space Properties Management Meetings –proposed agenda items.**

24 Ms. O'Hare said the meeting will take place with Program Planning, Engineering, Public Works, the Water
25 Division, and anyone connected with open space. She distributed the proposed agenda. Commissioner
26 Saunders suggested in advance of the meeting, people circulate ideas for the agenda. Commissioner
27 Saunders suggested organizing agenda items by departments.

28 Ms. O'Hare said the Mayor will present a "State of the Town" address on January 20 at the Senior Center.
29 The OSPM meeting dates will be either January 27 or January 31 in the Mayor's Office.

30 **E. Volunteer Projects – "The Big Event" – Sat., April 8, 2017**

31 Chair Heffernon asked the Commission for ideas for the Quinnipiac 10 students to work on. Commissioner
32 Saunders suggested clean-up of the bus circle on Tamarac Swamp Road near the Tyler Mill Preserve
33 entrance. Commissioner Ceneri said this project might be useful. Commissioner Lendler suggested redoing

1 the two trail sections in Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park which needs new gravel. The Commission
2 reached a consensus and agreed to these projects.

3 **F. Other properties**

4 Nothing to report.

5 **3. PROPERTY ACQUISITION/PRESERVATION**

6 **A. Sandplains**

7 Ms. O'Hare said Allnex is moving ahead with ideas to develop the property.

8 **B. Other**

9 Nothing to report.

10 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

11 **A. Proposed bid leases 2017-2022**

12 Commissioner Saunders said she had one bid lease completed. She said she did the deep zone tillage first.
13 She presented a conceptual bid lease document to Ms. O'Hare and discussed changes in the proposed bid
14 lease language document. Ms. O'Hare expressed concern that lease documents approved in October were
15 not yet ready and now new changes are being proposed. She suggested convening a Farmland Lease
16 Committee meeting to discuss these changes.

17 *The FLC will meet Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 4 p.m.*

18 **B. Farmland Committee**

19 1. Monitoring reports

20 Commissioner Arsenault said all the farmers under his purview cleared the autumn olive. Commissioner
21 Saunders said Field 19A on Scard Road was mowed December 31, 2016.

22 2. Draft lease for Beseck Meadow bid proposal

23 Ms. O'Hare said she did the work for Field 20A (Beseck Meadow). She went over the map of Field 20A as it
24 currently looks with Commissioner Arsenault.

25 **C. Field 1A, North Branford Road – signage relative to parking**

26 Commissioner Saunders said the signage is up on Field 1A. She said she hasn't seen any cars parking in
27 that area.

28 **5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

1 **Commissioner Pyskaty moved to keep the current slate of officers: Mary Heffernon as Chair**
2 **and John Lathrop as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Borne seconded the motion which passed**
3 **unanimously.**

4 Commissioner Lendler asked about term limits. Chair Heffernon said the Bylaws would have to be re-
5 written, (amended).

6 **6. POCD IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE – discussion of Action items**

7 Chair Heffernon said the POCD Implementation Committee will be meeting the end of January. She went
8 over the high important items which pertain to the Conservation Commission. Commissioner Saunders said
9 a high priority would be to correct the POCD maps, i.e. Gouveia Vineyards is still shown as single-family
10 housing. *Commissioner Saunders will send Chair Heffernon a list of the corrections.*

11 **7. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE**

12 Nothing to report.

13 **8. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

14 **A. CT Trails Day, June 3 & 4, 2017**

15 Chair Heffernon suggested having a bird hike for CT Trails Day. Commissioner Lendler suggested doing a
16 through-hike with car shuttling at the end. *Commissioners Ceneri and Lendler will meet to discuss co-
17 ordinating the through-hike and will notify Chair Heffernon accordingly regarding the particulars or details
18 as soon as possible.*

19 **9. OTHER TOPICS**

20 **A. Community Garden – tree cutting**

21 Chair Heffernon indicated a meeting needs to be set up between Mayor Dickinson and John Gawlak, Parks
22 & Recreation Director; Ms. O'Hare, and Henry McCully, Public Works Director and herself regarding the
23 policy. *Chair Heffernon will set up the meeting.*

24 **B. Commission representation**

25 Chair Heffernon said this item was on the agenda to discuss who represents the Commission.
26 Commissioner Borne said the Chair or the Chair's designee should speak to the press. Commissioner Ceneri
27 said we are all representatives of the Commission and should be cautious on what is said. Chair Heffernon
28 discussed a website from a private citizen called "Green Guide". Commissioner Saunders said there was
29 erroneous information on this site and that was why she contacted him.

30 **10. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

31 **A. DEEP – Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program – application**
32 **deadline, Feb. 2, 2017**

1 **B. DEEP – Urban Green and Community Gardens Grant Program – application deadline, Feb. 2,**
2 2017

3 **C. Preliminary Notification – Hall Avenue Streetscape & Senior Center Connection, Hall**
4 **Ave., Washington Street and Oak Street; to abutting property owners, forwarded by Town**
5 **Engineer; dated Jan. 6, 2017.**

6 Ms. O'Hare said she received this information on January 9 regarding the Hall Avenue Streetscape and
7 Senior Center Connection on Hall Avenue, and noted there is a public information meeting on January 19
8 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall. She said there is a proposed trail to be located near the Senior Center which may
9 affect property owners.

10 Chair Heffernon spoke about Allnex conducting a birds of prey speaker's series at the Hubcap in
11 Wallingford. She also spoke about the City of Milford doing an arboretum plan on their streetscapes. Chair
12 Heffernon spoke about an power company in North Carolina and their powerline butterfly habitat.

13 **11. NEXT MEETING – February 9, 2017**

14 **12. ADJOURNMENT**

15 **Motion: A motion by Commissioner Pyskaty second by Commissioner Borne to adjourn the**
16 **Meeting at 9:13 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

17

18 Respectfully submitted,

19

20 Cynthia Kleist

21 Recording Secretary