

1 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **Regular Meeting**

3 **Thursday, January 14, 2016, 7:00 p.m.**

4 **Town Hall Conference Basement Room**

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

6 **MINUTES**

7
8
9 **PRESENT:** Chair Mary Heffernon; Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Commissioners Carl Arsenault; Jim Pyskaty;
10 Dianne Lendler; Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner.

11 **NOT PRESENT:** Jeff Borne; Tom Pietras; Dianne Saunders.

12 Chair Heffernon called the Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

13 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

14 **A. Minutes, Regular Meeting, Dec. 10, 2015**

15 **MOTION:** A motion by Vice-Chair Lathrop second by Chair Heffernon to accept the Regular Meeting
16 Minutes of Dec. 10, 2015 as presented. The vote was unanimous.

17 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

18 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

19 1. Stewards of Tyler Mill

20 Commissioner Lender spoke about training a new Steward who is going to adopt the Green Trail.

21 **B. Fresh Meadows – mowing**

22 Ms. O'Hare reported that Steve Palermo mowed the cottonwoods at Fresh Meadows.

23 *Ms. O'Hare said she will visit the site to inspect.*

24 Chair Heffernon spoke about visiting the ash trees by the race to determine if they should be taken down.

25 *Commissioner Lendler said she will mark the trees which need to be removed.*

26 **C. Marcus Cooke Park – trails system**

27 *The Trails Committee on January 23, 2016 will look at the trails and decide on an improvement plan.*

28 Chair Heffernon said the trees need reblazing and clipping.

1 **D. Beseck Meadow** – ERT management plan proposal, staff

2 Ms. O'Hare told the Commission she will contact the ERT team and ask if they are interested in a project at
3 Beseck Meadow. She said Jay Brown is interested in renting 10 acres in the Meadow. She said in
4 researching the open space plan, she discovered information the DEEP has on this site so an ERT is
5 warranted. Commissioner Arsenaault spoke about the Meadow needing a clean-up mow this winter.

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

7

8 **E. Wallace Dam property – Harry O. Haakonsen Fishway** – report, M. Heffernon

9 Chair Heffernon spoke about a biologist who contacted the Library regarding the Fishway Dam. She said
10 she emailed Steve Gephardt who gave her statistics on the fish in the Fishway which she distributed. Chair
11 Heffernon reported that 5,156 fish in 2014 and 2,521 fish in 2015 swam through the Fishway.

12 **F. Other properties**

13 Nothing to report under "Other Properties".

14 The Commission discussed the Emerald Ash Borer, (EAB), issue. Chair Heffernon said the Commission
15 agreed to keep track of diseased trees which were in danger of falling. Chair Heffernon spoke about an
16 email from Eric Hansen who suggested the area in Tyler Mill with the diseased ash trees be turned into an
17 educational example. Chair Heffernon said the Stewards and the Trail Committee are keeping an eye out
18 on the diseased trees. The Commission agreed to look at the trees and ask Tom Worthley if he would be
19 interested in doing an educational workshop. Commissioner Lendler suggested putting an informational
20 sign near an affected ash tree. She noted four Stewards have left the group.

21 **3 PROPERTY ACQUISITION/PRESERVATION**

22 **A. 75 Tyler Mill Road property** – report

23 Chair Heffernon said Commissioner Saunders went out to the site with Stewards Harry Hubbard and Brian
24 Saulis. She said Commissioner Saunders reported there is a wet spot near the barn and that the area
25 between the river and barn has been checked in the past and has an infestation of weeds with the worst
26 being bindweed which is south of the house near the road. Chair Heffernon said Commissioner Saunders
27 noted the barn is infested with copperhead snakes.

28 *Ms. O'Hare will contact Steve Palermo, Public Works Foreman, about installing a silt fence and inquiring*
29 *about the asphalt driveway.*

30 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

31 **A. Lease field conditions (36 fields) and consideration of certain lease requirements**

32 Ms. O'Hare said there is nothing new to report, as the Farmland Lease Committee (FLC), has not met.

33 **B. Field 2A** – required maintenance mowing & effect of signage

1 Ms. O'Hare spoke about effective signage and wondered if the signage was paying off and was the mowing
2 done.

3 **C. Field 4A – required mowing**

4 Ms. O'Hare said she has not yet performed a site visit. Ms. O'Hare said the lessee was to mow the
5 invasives.

6 **D. Field 18A – proposed change**

7 Chair Heffernon requested Ms. O'Hare give a report even though Commissioner Pietras was not present at
8 the Meeting.

9 Ms. O'Hare said she went out to the site with Commissioner Pietras in response to Colleen Auger's request
10 for an additional area to pasture the cows. She said the proposal was to take land in the center of Field
11 18A formerly vegetables, which is now idle, and convert it to pasture and change the lease. Ms. O'Hare
12 spoke about the customizing of the leases. She suggested re-examining the number of cows allowed.

13 **E. Farmland Committee**

14 Not taken up.

15 **F. Other**

16 Not taken up.

17 **5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

18 Commissioner Pyskaky made a motion to keep the current slate with Mary Heffernon as Chair and John
19 Lathrop as Vice-Chair. The vote was unanimous.

20 **6. 2015 ANNUAL REPORT – M. Heffernon**

21 The Commission discussed the Annual Report which had been circulated previously for review. Chair
22 Heffernon said the report will be sent to the Council and Mayor Dickinson.

23 **7. OTHER TOPICS**

24 Chair Heffernon said Ferrucci & Walicki sent a holiday card and a card was received from the Ryan family.
25 Commissioner Lendler suggested planting a tree in Ken Ryan's honor. Chair Heffernon suggested having a
26 ceremony to honor Ken's service to the Conservation Commission.

27 Chair Heffernon reported that Mayor Dickinson received two letters- possibly three letters -from people
28 interested in serving on the Commission. She said the Mayor is conducting interviews.

29 Commissioner Lender asked about the school students volunteering which was handled by Ken Ryan. *Chair*
30 *Heffernon will contact the guidance department of both high schools.*

1 Ms. O'Hare spoke about a developer's plan for Cytec/Allnex property and their inquiry about a wetlands
2 application. She said there is a Connecticut Critical Habitat pitch pine sand plain on the site.

3 *Ms. O'Hare was asked to follow-up on this with the DEEP.*

4 Chair Heffernon said she read through the Aspetuck Land Trust Management Plan. She said the
5 Commission needs to think carefully about such a plan because it involves time, money and work. The
6 Commission spoke about the deer in Tyler Mill Preserve.

7 **8. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

8 **A. CT Land Conservation Council – 2016 CT Conservation Conference**, Wesleyan
9 University, Middletown, CT, Saturday, March 19, 2016, 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.

10 Chair Heffernon spoke about interested Commissioners attending the Conference.

11 **B. DEEP Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Fund Notice – Feb. 2, 2016 deadline**

12 Discussed above.

13 **C. CFPA magazine, "CT Woodlands", Winter 2016 – distributed to the Commission.**

14 Chair Heffernon mentioned the article about the tree wardens in Town.

15 **D. DEEP magazine: "CT Wildlife", Nov/Dec. 2015 – distributed to the Commission.**

16 **E. Notice of Tentative Determination to Approve an Application for Diversion of Water**
17 **Permit and Intent to Waive Public Hearing – Tilcon Connecticut – Diversion of Water**
18 **from onsite water collection pond, onsite water collection pond, onsite water collection**
19 **pond, onsite water supply pond, open water pond for various industrial uses; dated**
20 **12/28/15; received 1/6/16**

21 Ms. O'Hare said she received a notification from DEEP stating that Tilcon wants to divert new water for
22 their operation regarding three on-site water supply ponds for dust suppression and other uses.

23 **F. CT Audubon, "The State of the Birds" – 2016 –received by the Commission.**

24 Chair Heffernon had previously emailed copies to Commissioners. She mentioned an article by David Foster
25 on State birds.

26 **9. NEXT MEETING – February 11, 2016**

27 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

28 Commissioner Lathrop made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 8:15 p.m. Commissioner Pyskaty
29 seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

30

31 Respectfully submitted,

Wallingford Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting
January 14, 2016

- 1 Cynthia A. Kleist
- 2 Recording Secretary
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