

1 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **REGULAR MEETING**

3 **Thursday, December 8, 2016 – 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; Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Commissioners Jeff Borne; Mark Ceneri;
9 Dianne Saunders; Carl Arsenault; Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner; Don Roe, Program Planner.

10 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioners Dianne Lendler; Tom Pietras.

11 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

12 **A. Minutes, Regular Meeting, Nov. 10, 2016**

13 Page 3 E, should be "thinks" he has New England Cottontails. Page 5B should be "lived on the land" not
14 "donated".

15 Page 2 Item 2.A.4 should be "Commissioners Arsenault and Heffernon want to see the trail open".

16 Page 2 Item 2.A.5 last sentence should be "Commission would like the vernal pool study to be conducted".

17 Page 4, under 4.A-bid leases-should read "leaving a fallow year should be left in the bid".

18 Under 4.B-1 third paragraph should be Cooke Road not Cooke Hill Road.

19 Page 6 under 9.b and 9.c- should be 2017.

20 **Motion: Commissioner Borne made a motion to approve the December 8, 2016 Meeting**
21 **Minutes as amended. Commissioner Ceneri seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

22
23 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

24 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

25 1. Restoration of paintball-damaged area

26 Nothing new to report on the paintball damaged area. Commissioner Saunders said brush was cut back on
27 the Red and Black Trails. She said people have been taking down the "No Hunting Signs". *She is installing*
28 *new signs provided by DEEP.*

29 Commissioner Saunders said she hopes to restore the paintball damaged area before it snows.

1 2. Stewards of Tyler Mill – report on emergency number – D. Saunders

2 Chair Heffernon said the report has been completed.

3 3. Habitat survey – request for quotes

4 Ms. O'Hare said Mr. Klemens sent her some ideas about vernal pool monitoring for amphibians. Ms. O'Hare
5 said she will send these out to three contractors. She said the work should begin next March.

6 **B. Fresh Meadows**

7 1. CT Recreational Trail Program grant work

8 a. Municipal permits

9 Ms. O'Hare said all the permits have been obtained.

10 b. Contract bid

11 She said the next step is to meet with Don Roe and Rob Baltramaitis, Town Engineer, to finalize bid work.

12

13 **C. New England Trail - signage**

14 Chair Heffernon said she contacted the Connecticut Forest and Park Association who said they had a router
15 to make the signs. She showed to the Commission sample signage sent out. Chair Heffernon said there
16 would be one sign on Cliffside Drive and two on Howd Road. Ms. O'Hare indicated the signage installation
17 location is in Durham. *Chair Heffernon will follow-up with Durham.*

18 The Commission discussed adding two additional signs and the design of the signs for this National Scenic
19 Trail.

20 **D. Open Space Properties Management Meetings**

21 Ms. O'Hare said a meeting has not taken place for a while. She said she will set a meeting date after the
22 holidays. Chair Heffernon noted these meetings took place twice a year and urged the restarting of the
23 meetings.

24 **E. Other properties**

25 Nothing to report.

26 **3. PROPERTY ACQUISITION/PRESERVATION**

27 **A. Other**

28 Nothing to report.

29 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

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

1 Commissioner Saunders said she will get Ms. O'Hare the draft bid leases by Monday. She went over the
2 proposed wording for Beseck Meadow special conditions. She recommended mowing as needed in early
3 winter for the non-lease area as has been done on Cooke Road. Chair Heffernon noted she is against the
4 use of glyphosates. The use of glyphosates for deep zone tillage was discussed along with alternatives.

5 **A. Farmland Committee**
6

7 1. Monitoring reports

8 Commissioner Saunders said she is finishing up her report on Bozzuto's fields.

9 2. Draft lease for Beseck Meadow bid proposal

10 Discussed above.

11 **C.Field 1A – North Branford Road - Signage relative to parking**

12 Commissioner Saunders showed a photo of a truck hiding on Field 1B and it was determined the person
13 connected with the truck was hunting. She said she contacted the Police and gave them the hunting area
14 map. Ms. O'Hare said she asked Henry McCully, Public Works Director, to install a "No Parking Beyond This
15 Point" sign on Field 1A. Commissioner Saunders noted the Open Space Preserve sign was vandalized.

16 *Vice-Chair Lathrop said he would patch the holes in the sign.*

17 **D.Promoting organic farming**

18 Ms. O'Hare said she received a call from a farmer looking for fields to do organic farming. Ms. O'Hare
19 suggested a policy to promote organic farming. She suggested the Farmland Lease Committee develop this
20 idea.

21 **5. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

22 Nothing to report. Ms.O'Hare suggested a program on pollinators for homeowners.

23 **6. POCD IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE – discussion**

24 Chair Heffernon spoke about the POCD Report and asked the Commission to read implementation items so
25 they can be prioritized at the next meeting. She said Kacie Costello, Town Planner, told her the first
26 Implementation Committee meeting will take place in January. Commissioner Saunders said the first
27 priority should be the open space plan.

28 **7. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE**

29 Discussed above.

30 **8. OTHER TOPICS**

1 **A. Proposal for George Simpson** memorial at Wallingford Fire Department Station 7, North Farms
2 Road, M. Heffernon

3 Chair Heffernon said she sent the Fire Chief an email telling him the first stake was installed. She said she
4 received an email from George Simpson's daughter. *Chair Heffernon said she will get prices on the*
5 *memorial tree.*

6 **B. Community Garden** – tree cutting

7 Nothing to report regarding the tree cutting. Ms. O'Hare spoke about a potential second site for the
8 Community Garden.

9 Chair Heffernon added an item to the agenda at this point.

10 **C. Acknowledging Don Roe**

11 Commissioner Borne and the Commission acknowledged the work of Don Roe and said he has been
12 invaluable to the Commission. Mr. Roe, who will be retiring in January, also thanked the Commission for
13 their work as volunteers. He said this community is in better shape because of their work.

14 **9.CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

15 **A.CT Forest & Park Association** – letter re: Resolution Act 16-1: received 12/1/16

16 Chair Heffernon spoke about a letter the CFPA is sending the CT. General Assembly regarding proposing an
17 amendment to protect real property owned and controlled by the State. Chair Heffernon said this is about
18 protecting open space and not selling it and conducting public hearings on such matters.

19 **Motion: A motion by Commissioner Saunders second by Commissioner Pyskaty to sign the**
20 **letter supporting Resolution Act 16-1 in the 2017 Legislative Session. The motion passed**
21 **unanimously.**

22 **B.CACIWC 39th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference**, Rocky Hill, CT., Nov. 12- reports –
23 D. Saunders & staff

24 Ms. O'Hare and Commissioner Saunders spoke about the conference they attended. Ms. O'Hare noted the
25 bio control project in the Quinnipiac River State Park with beetles on the Mile-A-Minute plant. She spoke
26 about the selling of running bamboo noting it must be wrapped in 6 millimeter plastic in order for it to be
27 sold. Ms. O'Hare reported on tree diseases, including white pine ozone damage, oak wilt, and bark disease
28 on beech trees, and the tracking of natural disasters, atmospheric rivers, and regarding watersheds, and
29 the importance of the preservation of headwaters and towns doing natural resources inventories.

30 Commissioner Saunders spoke about the UCONN Clear Water seminar noting there is plenty of water in CT
31 because of the groundwater. She also spoke about the pollinator seminar. Commissioner Saunders spoke
32 about the value of urban trees to the atmosphere discussed in the talk she attended. Commissioner
33 Saunders reported on the NRCS grants to create woodcock habitats and said Commissioner Pietras wants
34 to map these areas in Tyler Mill Preserve.

1 **C.CACIWC newsletter, *The Habitat*, Fall 2016**

2 **D.DEEP –CT Recreational Trails Program – 2017-2018 Grant Round – application deadline, Dec. 15,**
3 **2016 – discussed.**

4 **E.DEEP – Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program – application deadline Feb.**
5 **2, 2017 – discussed.**

6 **F.DEEP – Urban Green and Community Garden Grant Program – application deadline Feb. 2, 2017**

7 Chair Heffernon spoke about woodcock hunting. Commissioner Saunders noted they are not a species of
8 concern. She said a field trip to Sessions Woods to see the woodcock habitat is being planned.

9 Commissioner Saunders spoke about the bee keeping workshop with Planning & Zoning.

10 **10. NEXT MEETING – January 12, 2017**

11 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

12 **Motion: A motion by Commissioner Borne second by Commissioner Psykaty to adjourn the**
13 **meeting at 8: p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

14

15 Respectfully submitted,

16 Cynthia A. Kleist

17 Recording Secretary

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