

1 Wallingford Conservation Commission

2 Regular Meeting

3 Thursday, March 9, 2017

4 Town Hall Basement Conference Room

5 45 S. Main Street, Town Hall

6 Wallingford, CT

7 7:00 p.m.

8 **MINUTES**

9
10 **PRESENT:** Chair Mary Heffernon; Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Commissioners Mark Ceneri; Dianne Lendler;
11 Jeff Borne; Jim Pyskaty; Tom Pietras; Dianne Saunders; Erin O'Hare Environmental Planner; Public - Mike
12 Miller.

13 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioner Carl Arsenault.

14 Chair Heffernon called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

15 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

16 **A. Minutes, Regular Meeting, Jan. 12, 2017**

17 Under "Farmland Lease Program" October is incorrectly spelled with an "l" instead of "O".

18 **Motion: A motion by Vice-Chair Lathrop seconded by Commissioner Ceneri to approve the**
19 **Regular Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2017 as amended. Vote: Unanimous**

20 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

21 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

22 1. Restoration of paintball-damaged area

23 Commissioner Saunders said the restoration is nearly complete. She said there is one piece of the fort left
24 to dismantle out of 13 forts.

25 2. Report on emergency numbers, M. Heffernon

26 Chair Heffernon showed the Commission all the new numbers. *She said she made an instructional chart*
27 *and will put the numbers up in the spring.*

28 3. Stewards of Tyler Mill, D. Saunders & D. Lendler

29 Commissioner Saunders spoke about the annual pot luck dinner at Commissioner Lendler's house. She said
30 slides depicting Tyler Mill from 50 years ago were shown. Commissioner Saunders said she caught two

1 illegal tree cutters. She also commented on two homemade ATVs observed in Tyler Mill Preserve.
2 Commissioner Saunders said a few Stewards are working on identifying plants and early successional
3 habitats. She said autumn olive is also being cleared around the apple trees and the wood duck box was
4 replaced.

5 4. Habitat survey – status

6 Ms. O'Hare said the \$6,000 has been allocated to the amphibian project. She said Michael Klemens was
7 awarded the bid for this project.

8 **B. Fresh Meadows – bluebird project – status**

9 Ms. O'Hare spoke about cleaning out the bluebird boxes in Fresh Meadows which should take place in
10 February. She spoke about a new bluebird box design to be explored. *Chair Heffernon will alert*
11 *Commissioner Arsenault to do this.*

12 **C. Ferguson Woods – map revision**

13 Ms. O'Hare went over the map revision. She said she wants to have an overall trail map for the entire
14 Town and said she is working on the maps with the Engineering Dept. She showed the Commission a draft
15 trail map for Ferguson Woods.

16 Commissioner Borne introduced Mr. Miller who is President of the Sleeping Giant Association. Mr. Borne
17 noted Mr. Miller attended the January meeting and is interested in the Conservation Commission.

18 **D. Beseck Mountain – map revision**

19 To be discussed at the April meeting.

20 **E. Beseck Meadow – map revision**

21 Discussed under "Farmland Lease" below.

22 **F. New England Trail – signage, M. Heffernon**

23 Chair Heffernon said there are five points in Town where the New England trail crosses, two on RT.68. She
24 said the CT. Forest and Park Association will make a sign to go on Cliffside Trail and two on Howd Road.
25 She said the mileage to the next road point will be included on the signs. Ms. O'Hare passed around her
26 copy of the New England Trail map brochure.

27 **G. Volunteer Projects – "The Big Event" Sat. April 8, 2017**

28 Chair Heffernon asked for Commission volunteers and said students from Quinnipiac University will be
29 participating. Commissioner Saunders said trees at the bus circle on Tamarac Swamp Road have been
30 overrun with multiflora rose and suggested the students clear five or six feet around the trees and install
31 wood chips. *Commissioner Saunders will research prices for the landscape fabric.*

32 **H. Other properties**

1 Nothing to discuss.

2 **3. OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT MEETING**, Mayor's Office, Jan. 31 – report

3 Ms. O'Hare said she, Chair Heffernon, Vice-Chair Lathrop, along with some Dept. Heads including John
4 Gawlak, Neil Amwake, Manager Water and Sewer Division; Kacie Costello, Town Planner, Rick Hendershot,
5 General Manager Electric Division; George Adair, Director of Public Utilities; Rob Baltramaitis, Town
6 Engineer, and Police Chief Wright, met with Mayor Dickinson.

7 Ms. O'Hare said Tyler Mill and enforcement issues were discussed. Ms. O'Hare said she also spoke about
8 the allocation of the Fresh Meadow monies. Ms. O'Hare said she is working the Engineering Department
9 with Lenard Engineering to get the grant contract bid ready. Ms. O'Hare spoke about the tree removal
10 policy which involves no cutting of trees by the Conservation Commission unless the tree is blocking a trail.
11 Ms. O'Hare said John Gawlak, Parks & Recreation Director, spoke about different recreational permits
12 including the possible expansion of the linear trail to the senior center. Ms. O'Hare said there was
13 discussion on the possible Phase 3 of the Quinipiac Trail and reported the tree cutting by Eversource
14 Energy has been delayed.

15 Commissioner Saunders reported the Water Division cut the Right-Of-Way at the Tyler Mill Preserve
16 entrance area.

17 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

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

19 Ms. O'Hare said all four bid leases are up to the Purchasing Department. Commissioner Saunders said
20 there should be no hunting on Field 9D. Ms. O'Hare said the Pasture lease, Field 4A and Field 19A and
21 Field 20, Beseck Mountain, are completed and ready to go out. She distributed the Beseck Meadow lease
22 map and the Beseck Meadow Area Map. Ms. O'Hare said she wrote a memo to Town Engineer Rob
23 Baltramaitis to have him boundary mark the access way. Ms. O'Hare said the bid deadline opening is March
24 29, 2017 for both bids.

25 Commissioner Saunders noted the legends on some of the new maps are incorrect. She discussed Field 1C
26 on Northford Road which is the deep zone tillage field.

27 **B. Farmland Committee**

28 Commissioner Saunders said the FLC met and worked on the leases and mapping. Commissioner
29 Saunders spoke about Fields 7E and 7F which have been mowed for free by the lessee. She said the fields
30 were going to be put out for hay. She discussed how these fields need to be mowed every three years.
31 The Commission reached a consensus that these fields - 7E and 7F do not get put out for bid.

32 Ms. O'Hare said Field 1A and Field 1C on North Branford Road; Field 13A; the hayfield which is Field 6A
33 and Field 6B off Cooke Road and Field 1D on North Branford Road are being bid. Commissioner Saunders
34 said she has begun working on the narrative for the lease on Field 18A.

35 **5. POCD IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE**

1 Not discussed.

2 **6. BUDGET FY 16-17**

3 Ms. O'Hare said she and Chair Heffernon met with the Mayor and said the budget will remain the same as
4 last year's budget.

5 **7. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

6 **A. CT Trails Day, June 3, 2017**

7 Chair Heffernon said Commissioner Lender and Commissioner Ceneri will conduct a hike for CT Trails Day
8 on June 3, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. beginning at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park and ending on
9 Woodhouse Avenue. Chair Heffernon asked for Commission volunteers to assist.

10 **B. Other**

11 Nothing to discuss.

12 **8. ANNUAL REPORT**

13 Chair Heffernon said she sent the Annual Report to the Commissioners for feedback. Commissioner Borne
14 spoke about the introduction and the report in general and gave a few suggestions. Ms. O'Hare also made
15 suggestions to the Chair.

16 **9. OTHER TOPICS**

17 Chair Heffernon spoke about the Charter Revision Commission Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 15.
18 She asked that the Commission be represented. She spoke about Page 9 and Page 17 of the proposed
19 Charter which deals with the Environmental Planner position. *Commissioner Borne will represent the*
20 *Commission.*

21 Chair Heffernon reminded the Commission of the dedication of former Conservation Commissioner Ken
22 Ryan's Tree on Sunday June 11, at 4 p.m.

23 **10. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

24 **A. DEEP magazine, *Connecticut Wildlife*, Nov. – Dec. 2016, received Jan.23, 2017**

25 **B. Beekeeping provision proposal for Wallingford Zoning Regulations, PZC Meeting Feb. 1**

26 Chair Heffernon noted that Planning & Zoning Commission passed the application for home beekeeping.
27 She passed around the article that Commissioner Ceneri brought in featuring a woman who is fighting for
28 the right for people to keep bees on their property. This article appeared in the Wallingford Post.

29 **C. 2017 Connecticut Land Conservation Conference; Wesleyan University, Middletown CT.,**
30 **Sat. March 18, 2017**

31 Chair Heffernon said she will be attending this conference. Commissioner Saunders noted that Anthony
32 Zemba, Environmental Specialist, will be conducting a workshop there on the Fee In Lieu Program.

33 **D. The Connecticut Audubon Society – membership appeal –discussed.**

- 1 **E. "CT Land Use Law for Municipal Land Use Agencies, Boards and Commissions"**
2 sponsored by the CT Bar Association, Wesleyan University, Sat., March 25, 2017; received Jan.
3 18, 2017.
4 **F. Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources, UCONN, March 13.**

5 Chair Heffernon said she and Commissioner Saunders will attend this conference.

- 6 **G. Hall Avenue Streetscape and Senior Center Connection on Hall Avenue, Washington**
7 **Street, and Oak Street – Public Meeting, Town Hall, Jan. 19 – report**
8 Discussed.

- 9 **H. Eversource Energy –** scheduled herbicide applications and vegetation removal of targeted
10 species (tall growing tree species and invasive plant species); notice received Jan. 9, 2017.
11 Not discussed.

- 12 **I. CT Wetland In-Lieu Fee Grant Program, notice emailed to Mayor Dickinson, Jr., from**
13 SCRCOG, 3/1/17

14 *Commissioner Saunders will try to prepare an application for the Tyler Mill Preserve habitat management*
15 *plan for this grant program.*

16 Ms. O'Hare said a letter of intent must be received by April 17, 2017, so time was short. Chair Heffernon
17 said restoration of Doolittle Park may be a good grant application. This topic will be put on the April
18 agenda.

19 Ms. O'Hare spoke about the "Water Too Much or Not Enough - from Rain Bombs to Drought" conference.
20 She distributed the flyer to the Commission. Ms. O'Hare spoke about a lecture she attended on Tuesday
21 night featuring Steve Gephardt, State Fisheries Biologist, who spoke about the Archimedes Screw installed
22 at Hanover Pond, Meriden. She said Mr. Gephardt spoke about the 60 fish ways in the State and the 20 eel
23 passes installed.

24 Chair Heffernon said she came up with a list of unfinished items after going through last year's Minutes.
25 She asked Ms. O'Hare about the SCROG maps and asked her to take care of this. She said Marcus Cooke
26 has to be rebalanced. She also spoke about doing the Conservation Easement. She said she will contact the
27 Mayor's office on Friday. Chair Heffernon said she would like to see an Ordinance put in place regarding
28 idling cars.

29 Ms. O'Hare said there should be a discussion on the Management Plan for the next agenda.

30 **11. NEXT MEETING – April 13, 2017**

31 **12. ADJOURNMENT**

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

34
35 Respectfully submitted,

- 1 Cynthia A. Kleist
- 2 Recording Secretary
- 3