

1 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **REGULAR MEETING**

3 **Thursday, April 11, 2013**

4 **7 P.M.**

5 **Town Hall, Basement Conference Room**

6 **45 South Main Street**

7 **Wallingford, Connecticut**

8 **MINUTES**

9
10 **PRESENT:** Chairman Jeffrey Borne; Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne
11 Lendler; Dianne Saunders; Jim Pyskaty; John Lathrop; Tom Pietras; Carl Arsenault; Ken
12 Ryan; Erin O'Hare, Environmental and Natural Resources Planner.

13 **Chairman Borne called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.**

14
15 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

16 **A. Minutes, February 14, 2013**

17 Page 3, line 12 should read "upcoming proposed projects".

18 Page 3, line 24 should read "Conservation Commission."

19 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon, second by Commissioner**
20 **Lathrop to approve the February 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes as amended. The**
21 **motion passed unanimously.**

22 Chairman Borne took the agenda in the following order.

23
24 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

25 **A. Farmland Lease Cycle - 2013-2017**

26 1. Review final bid proposal for 21 hayfields

27 Chairman Borne said he had reviewed the Farmland Lease Committee's revisions to the
28 staff's draft bid proposal for the 21 hayfields last Friday. He noted the draft bid proposal
29 is close to being completed. He suggested to Ms. O'Hare, that the Committee's
30 comments be accepted and the draft be forwarded to the Legal and Purchasing

1 Departments for their review. *Ms. O'Hare will set up a meeting with Sal*
2 *Amaeo Purchasing Department Director, the Law Department and the Farmland Lease*
3 *Committee to answer its questions relative to the draft bid proposal as requested by the*
4 *Committee.*

5 Ms. Saunders said the biggest changes suggested to the draft bid proposal involved
6 horse's access to the fields, manure and fertilizer usage, and hunting access. Chairman
7 Borne said these are five-year leases with an option for five more years. Commissioner
8 Pietras spoke about the Water Division's concern over nutrients and the prohibition of
9 the application of manure and fertilizer on fields in the watershed area.

10 Ms. O'Hare explained this is a last-minute policy change on the part of the Division as a
11 result of phosphorous regulations. The Committee requested Ms. O'Hare request a
12 memorandum from Roger Dann, General Manager, Water & Sewer Division, stating the
13 basis for this change. The Commission agreed to come to a consensus to accept the draft
14 bid proposal by the Farmland Lease Committee and have Ms. O'Hare review the
15 suggested changes to draft report and expedite this report for review by the Purchasing
16 and Legal Departments.

17 Commissioner Lendler asked if any significant changes made by Ms. O'Hare to the draft
18 bid proposal, would have to be looked at again by the Farmland Lease Committee.
19 Chairman Borne said he is confident we have the final document. Ms. Saunders said she
20 would like the Farmland Lease Committee's questions to the Purchasing and Legal
21 Department (submitted on April 10) be submitted for the record because they are
22 technical in nature.

23 2. Review status of bid proposal for 2 deep zone tillage - use fields

24 Ms. O'Hare had indicated in the previous agenda item that the bid proposal for these
25 two fields – Field 5A and Field 7A – is still under review and will and will require further
26 meetings with the Farmland Lease Committee.

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B. Farmland Committee Report

30 Taken up above

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C. Mowing Quote – Not Taken Up

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2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

34

A. TYLER MILL PRESERVE

35

1. DEP Recreation Trails Grant Program – parking lot, entranceways, and
36 kiosks – status.

37

Ms. O'Hare said kiosk construction was delayed because of snow and contractor's
38 health issues and the contractor is expected to resume work on April 22nd. Regarding

1 the signs, Ms. O'Hare said she received two quotes but the project must be re-quoted.
2 She said a resident suggested these words be added to the proposed sign: "Yield to
3 horses on trails and roads" for the kiosks. *Vice-Chair Heffernon will research the*
4 *language of the proposed sign and report to Ms. O'Hare.*

5 Ms. O'Hare said she has received no response from the Engineering Department on the
6 parking lot schematic they are to provide the Commission. (See more below).

7

8 **3. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

9 **A. Open Space User's Group Meeting, April 4 – report**

10 Ms. O'Hare said a sub-committee was formed at the O.S.U.G. meeting comprised of
11 residents who were interested in the Conservation Commission's plans for the parking
12 lots at Tyler Mill Preserve. *Ms. O'Hare will set up a meeting of the sub-committee at the*
13 *request of John Gawlak, Director, Park & Recreation Department.*

14 Commissioner Saunders said the State DEEP designated the parking lot located at the
15 intersection of Woodhouse Avenue and East Dayton Hill Road as an area for hunting. She
16 suggested a memo be sent to Don Roe, Program Planner, for DEEP to remove this area
17 as a parking area on the state website. *Ms. O'Hare will do so.*

18 Chairman Borne said Mayor Dickinson expressed interest in the restoration of old fields
19 in wooded areas at Tyler Mill Preserve at the meeting. Commissioner Saunders said the
20 concept is good but the practicality will be difficult. She said the Audubon Society does a
21 yearly study, eight key places where they monitor for listed bird species. She suggested
22 this study be performed at strategic places for the desired effects. Chairman Borne said
23 he supported the restoration idea in concept. *Commissioner Saunders and Commissioner*
24 *Lendler will work on the study and look at the ERT completed for Tyler Mill Preserve.*

25 Ms. O'Hare said NEMBA were in attendance at the Open Space User's Group Meeting
26 and prohibition against trail creation had been discussed. *Vice-Chair Heffernon will be the*
27 *liaison between NEMBA and the Commission.*

28

29 **Continuing with Property Management – Tyler Mill Preserve**

30 **2. Trails Map**

31 Ms. O'Hare passed around the latest Tyler Mill Preserve Trails Map. Commissioner
32 Saunders suggested the brown colored area be coded a lighter color and signage
33 erected that stated "No Dogs."

34 *Ms. O'Hare will lighten the brown area on map to grey and eliminate the "Other Town*
35 *Land" key in the Legend; the land around MacKenzie Reservoir will be highlighted in*
36 *grey; the credits will be larger on the upper right hand corner, the "Conservation*

1 *Commission” credit will be larger; “Access Restricted” will be repeated at the bottom of*
2 *Field 18A, the Legend will be changed to indicate “Farm Fields within the Preserve.”*

3 *Ms. O’Hare will write a memo to Water and Sewer Division Director Roger Dann*
4 *regarding the map for his approval.*

5 3. Proposed footbridges

6 Ms. O’Hare said the Stewards of Tyler Mill are interested in constructing more
7 footbridges, on the Red and Green Trails, but Wetlands Commission approval will be
8 needed.

9 Commissioner Pietras left the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

10 *Commissioner Saunders will submit details to Ms. O’Hare who will assist with the*
11 *Commission’s application for Wetlands by the April 30 deadline.*

12 Commissioner Ryan said he and Vice-Chair Heffernon went to the proposed Gold Trail
13 site by the soccer field. He suggested getting a Scout to perform the work.

14 Commissioner Lendler suggested the Pink Trail be put on May’s agenda because the log
15 over the river on that trail is gone and people cannot cross. *Commissioner Lendler will*
16 *put together a proposal.*

17 **B. Fresh Meadow Swamp At Cheshire Road**

18 1. Improvements

19 Ms. O’Hare said the \$6,000 in the budget must be used by June 30, 2013. She said a
20 base survey must be conducted. She said she had a budget meeting with Mayor
21 Dickinson. Ms. O’Hare said the consensus was to put out a bid for a contractor to do a
22 base survey and professional drawings of the land where the two ADA (Americans with
23 Disabilities Act) trails will be place, i.e. the long trail along Cheshire Road, and the trail
24 along the pond. She said theoretically, \$6,000 would be spent this year and \$6,000
25 next year and if the costs were higher, monies could be taken from the Open Space
26 Fund.

27 2. DEEP Recreational Trails Grant application – status

28 Ms. O’Hare said the Grant application was submitted on March 27, two days before the
29 deadline. She said the first phase is concentrating on the three ADA trails for the first
30 year: the trail on Cheshire Road; the trail to the Pond and the stone dust loop through
31 the butterfly meadow, park benches by the erratic boulder and planting bushes. Ms.
32 O’Hare said the grant totals \$119,000. As the grant won’t be awarded for awhile,
33 improvement work on the property will continue.

34 3. Property name

35 Ms. O’Hare said the staff proposal is to change the property name from Fresh Meadow
36 Swamp at Cheshire Road to Fresh Meadows at Cheshire Road.

1 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Lendler**
2 **to change the name of the property to Fresh Meadows at Cheshire Road. The**
3 **motion passed unanimously.**

4 **C. 1250 Whirlwind Hill Road property**

5 Ms. O'Hare discussed the Sept 10, 2010 file notes on the property. The Commission had
6 considered leasing the property for haying. Ms. O'Hare asked if the Commission preferred
7 to oversee the property for either mowing or haying or have the Water Division oversee
8 it. Commissioner Saunders said the property was originally a pasture but part of the
9 property is swampy.

10 *Commissioners Saunders and Lendler will walk the property and report back to the*
11 *Commission at the May meeting.*

12 **D. Invasive Species Eradication**

- 13 1. Long-term invasive species management program – update, D.
14 Saunders

15 Commissioner Saunders handed out her report. She said the clearing of the bridge site is
16 continuing. She said the knotweed and the Tree of Heaven by the Main Entrance needs
17 to be treated; the garlic mustard invading the Dutchman's Britches is being treated; the
18 disturbed area from the water main break at Vietnam Veterans Park will be monitored;
19 Stewards will be removing the new incursion of goutweed as soon as it emerges.

20 Commissioner Saunders spoke about bamboo eradication. She said three sites: Tamarac
21 Swamp Road, Liney Hall Lane and Beseck Meadow were toured with private citizen
22 scientist Caryn Rickel. Commissioner Saunders said legislation regarding controls over
23 prohibiting planting running bamboo anywhere but on private property has made it
24 through several hurdles in the State.

25 **E. Volunteer Work Program**

26 Ms. O'Hare spoke about a volunteer survey of unknown origins which was received in
27 the mail by a resident. *Commissioner Lendler will look into the origins of this survey and*
28 *give a report at the May meeting.*

29 Ms. O'Hare said a resident expressed interest in participating in the chainsaw program at
30 Tyler Mill Preserve and Bertini Park. Commissioner Saunders said the chainsaw training
31 program has ended. *Commissioner Saunders will contact the resident to see if he may*
32 *be interested in becoming a Steward of Tyler Mill.*

33 Ms. O'Hare said she received a call from a high school student, interested in ecology
34 who is interested in doing a research project on July 1, 2 and 3 at Fresh Meadows.
35 *Commissioner Ryan will contact the student and oversee this research project.*

36 **F. Boundary Marking Program – staff.** Report tabled to the May meeting.

37 **G. Bamboo**

1 Commissioner Saunders spoke about bamboo eradication. She said three sites: Tamarac
2 Swamp Road, Liney Hall Lane and Beseck Meadow were toured with private citizen
3 scientist Caryn Rickel. Commissioner Saunders said legislation regarding controls over
4 prohibiting planting running bamboo anywhere but on private property has made it
5 through several hurdles in the State.

6 **5. BUDGET FY 13/14**

7 **A. Report**

8 **B. Public Budget Hearing, 4/10; Town Council Budget Hearing 4/29**

9 Ms. O'Hare said there were no questions regarding the Commission's budget from the
10 public at the hearing. Ms. O'Hare said the Town Council budget hearing will take place
11 on April 29. She said the budget that was moved forward was well received by the
12 Mayor, who later cut the office supplies line item by \$475.

13 **6. GROUP FACILITATION**

14 **A. Review of Committee functions – Stewards of Tyler Mill – Not Taken Up.**

15 **B. Rules of Engagement - Not Taken Up.**

16 **7. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE – revisions**

17 **A. Revisions: "Vision Statement", "Purpose", & "Open Space Defined" – Tabled.**

18 Commissioner Saunders noted that the Town of Colchester has a nice open space plan.

19 **8. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

20 **A. Dog Park Proposal – alternate location**

21 Vice-Chair Heffernon said a location was found but Parks & Recreation did not approve
22 because of parking issues.

23 **B. Proposed legislation – Not Taken Up.**

24 **C. Sleeping Giant State Park – correspondence**

25 Ms. O'Hare said invasives are growing on a small patch of land on the side of Mansion
26 Road near Sleeping Giant State Park which was brought to her attention by a Park
27 volunteer. *Ms. O'Hare will respond with a letter stating the Commission has no oversight*
28 *responsibility as the area in question is not open space, etc..*

29 **D. CACIWIC – Winter 2012 – Newsletter distributed.**

30 **E. 2013 CT Land Conservation Conference, Mar. 23, report**

31 Vice-Chair Heffernon said the conference was well-attended and informative.

1 **F.CFPA** - Project Learning Tree Educator Workshop

2 Ms. O'Hare provided a brochure to Vice-Chair Heffernon.

3 **G.CT NEMBA** – Workshop – designing, building & maintaining sustainable shared
4 use trails – North Madison, April 7 – Not Taken Up.

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6 **9. NEXT MEETING - May 9, 2013**

7 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

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9 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Pyskaty**
10 **to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m.**

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13 Respectfully submitted,

14 Cynthia A. Kleist

15 Recording Secretary

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