

1 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **REGULAR MEETING**

3 Thursday, April 13, 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; Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Commissioners Jim Pyskaty; Mark Ceneri; Tom  
9 Pietras; Carl Arsenault; Erin O'Hare Environmental Planner; Public: Margaret Schaulis.

10 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioners Dianne Lendler and Jeff Borne.

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

12 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

13 **A. Minutes, Regular Meeting, March 9, 2017**

14 Page 1, line 26, under "Emergency Number", should be "made an instructional chart"; page 3, top of page  
15 should say Public Works cleared around the trees"; list of people at meeting included Henry McCully; line  
16 13, no cutting of trees by Conservation Committee unless the tree is not standing; page 4, line 21, met  
17 with Mayor and "so far" the budget will remain the same; page 4, line 25, should say: asked the  
18 Commissioners for help in planting the tree for the dedication; line 31, women "fought" for the right; page  
19 5, line 19, regarding CLCC conference "Commissioner Heffernon will ask what projects are suitable for the  
20 Grant Program".

21 **Motion: A motion by Vice-Chair Lathrop second by Commissioner Ceneri to approve the**  
22 **Regular Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2017 as amended. Vote: Unanimous**

23 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

24 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

- 25 1. Restoration of paintball-damaged area, report D. Saunders

26 Commissioner Saunders said there are just six to eight branches remaining to remove from the damaged  
27 area.

28 Chair Heffernon took the agenda in the following order.

29 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

30 **A. Recommended bid awards – Bid #132**

1 Ms. O'Hare said the pastureland Bid #132 involve Fields 4A and 19A. She said the Farmland Lease  
2 Committee met to rank the applications noting there were three bidders. She said Mountain Valley Farm,  
3 3B Ranch and Triangle A Ranch were considered. She recommended the bid go to Triangle A Ranch for  
4 Field 4A and Field 19A for five years.

5 **Motion:** Commissioner Saunders moved that pastureland bid #132 be awarded to Triangle A Ranch, LLC  
6 for Fields 4A and 19A. Commissioner Pyskaty seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.

7 Ms. O'Hare said the other bid was for Field 20A, Besock Meadow to restore the meadow with maintenance  
8 and hay production. She said there were three bidders, with one being disqualified immediately. Ms.  
9 O'Hare said Three B Ranch scored the highest and she recommends they be awarded the bid. Ms. O'Hare  
10 said the bid awards will be put on the Town Council's agenda for approval.

11 2. Emergency numbers, M. Heffernon

12 *Chair Heffernon set the date for the Trails Committee to install the numbers for April 30, 2017 at 9 a.m.*

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

14 Commissioner Saunders distributed her report. She noted that an illegal hunter was running his dogs for  
15 game and the Police were notified. She said the Open Space tags are in the wrong place on the fields at  
16 Maltby Lane. *She will get Ms. O'Hare a map of the area.*

17 Commissioner Saunders said there were two fires at the Moss Rock area. She showed photos of the  
18 involved area. Commissioner Saunders spoke about two ash trees on the closed section of Tyler Mill Road  
19 that are decaying and ready to fall.

20 4. Trail Map – correction & reproduction

21 Commissioner Saunders noted some of the Yellow Trail and the White Trail were shown going through the  
22 Farmland Lease fields on the Tyler Mill Preserve Trails Map.

23 *Chair Heffernon will ask the Engineering Department to revise.*

24 *Chair Heffernon will inform John Gawlak, Parks & Recreation Director, there are a sufficient amount of*  
25 *maps printed for the time being.*

26 5. Habitat survey – status

27 Commissioner Saunders said the consultant Habitat survey is continuing. She said salamander eggs have  
28 been spotted along with toads. Ms. O'Hare said the survey should be completed soon.

29 6. Habitat Management Plan – CT Wetland In-Lieu Fee Grant Program

30 Chair Heffernon explained the Wetland In-Lieu Fee Grant Program sponsored by the Audubon Association.  
31 She spoke about using the Grant for Doolittle Park to install a riparian buffer. She said a Letter of Intent  
32 needs to be submitted by April 17, 2017. *Chair Heffernon will write up the Letter of Intent and submit.*

1 Commissioner Saunders said because the grant program focuses on wetlands, a management plan at the  
2 Tyler Mill Preserve would not be eligible.

3 **B. Doolittle Park** – streambank restoration – CT Wetland In-Lieu Fee Grant Program – discussed  
4 above.

5 **C. Fresh Meadows**

6 1. Bluebird project- status

7 Commissioner Arsenault said he cleaned the bluebird boxes. He said new boxes are needed because of the  
8 poor condition of some of the boxes.

9 *Chair Heffernon will explore the possibility of obtaining more boxes.*

10 2. CT Recreational Trails Program Project- update

11 Ms. O'Hare said she sent a letter to the Consultant on Thursday, April 13, 2017. She said Lenard  
12 Engineering will submit a quote to get the construction bid "bid-ready". Chair Heffernon spoke about the  
13 problem with using stone dust on the trails. She also spoke about possibly using 3/8 inch aggregate  
14 instead. *The Commission decided to have Chair Heffernon will get more information and discuss this issue*  
15 *with Town Engineer Rob Baltramaitis.*

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

17 Ms. O'Hare went over the highlights of the latest Beseck Mountain map.

18 **E. Volunteer Projects, "The Big Event"**. Apr. 8, reports, D. Saunders, D. Lendler, M. Heffernon

19 Chair Heffernon said Commissioner Saunders did a great job in organizing and the students did a good job  
20 and finished an hour early with work on the Tamarac Swamp Road bus turnaround area. . Commissioner  
21 Saunders said there has been no litter in the area for a week. Chair Heffernon sent Steve Palermo, General  
22 Foreman, Public Works Department, thanking him for his assistance.

23 **F. Other properties** – report back on controlled burning, M. Saunders.

24 Chair Heffernon spoke to Fire Chief Heidgerd about possibly doing controlled burning on Town open space  
25 which was declined. She said Chief Heidgerd suggested speaking to the DEEP regarding this issue.

26 **3.OPEN SPACE USERS GROUP MEETING**, Conference Room, Parks & Recreation Dept., 6 Fairfield  
27 Boulevard, April 25, 2017, 7:00 p.m. – agenda suggestions

28 Chair Heffernon solicited agenda item suggestions from the Commission. Ms. O'Hare suggested Fresh  
29 Meadows Trail Grant, Farmland Lease, and the Tyler Mill habitat and the surveys as agenda suggestions.  
30 Chair Heffernon suggested mentioning CT Trails Day.

31 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

32 **B. Farmland Committee**

1 Commissioner Saunders said the remaining bids will be opened Monday, April 17, 2017. She set the  
2 Farmland Committee meeting date for Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at 4 p.m. to review qualifications of bidders.

3 **5. POCD IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE – report, M. Heffernon**

4 Chair Heffernon spoke about the tabulation of action items for implementation and number one in the  
5 rankings is to acquire and conserve open space property. She mentioned that P&Z is starting to look at the  
6 open space issue and putting money into a conservation land fund to acquire open space. Chair Heffernon  
7 said P&Z is starting to think about reducing storm water runoff. Chair Heffernon said preserving existing  
8 agricultural operations, and continuing the Farmland Lease operations is the top priority for the  
9 Conservation Commission. The Commission discussed revising the Open Space Plan. *Chair Heffernon will*  
10 *give Commissioner Ceneri a copy of the Plan.*

11 **6. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

12 **A. CT Trails Day, Tyler Mill Preserve hike, June 3, 2017, 8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m.**

13 Chair Heffernon noted that Commissioners Ceneri and Saunders are leading a through hike beginning at  
14 Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Park, ending at the Woodhouse Avenue soccer fields. Commissioner Saunders  
15 spoke about the upcoming "Connecticut's Spring Wildflowers" Slideshow on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at the  
16 Wallingford Public Library.

17 **B. Other – Not taken up.**

18 **7. OTHER TOPICS**

19 Chair Heffernon spoke about a group looking for properties in Connecticut to do green burials.

20 **8. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

21 **A. 2017 CT Land Conservation Conference: Mar. 18, 2017 – report, M. Heffernon**

22 Chair Heffernon spoke about the Conference and noted the "rabbitat" program is being expanded.

23 **B. CT Conference on Natural Resources, Mar. 13, - reports, D. Saunders, M. Heffernon**

24 Commissioner Saunders said one student did a project on knotweed and another student did a kiosk  
25 project at Peter's Rock. Commissioner Saunders mentioned the posters done by other students and  
26 highlighted the multi-flora rose poster. Chair Heffernon spoke about the Black Birder speech from a staff  
27 member of Clemson University. Commissioner Saunders spoke about the need to get the younger  
28 generation involved in conservation matters. Chair Heffernon passed around a list of things for  
29 environmental advocacy.

30 **C. CACIWC newsletter, *The Habitat*, Winter 2017**

31 **D. Town Council FY 17-18 Budget Hearing** (Conservation Commission budget), Robert F.  
32 Parisi Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Town Hall, 45 So. Main Street, April 18, 2017, 6:30 p.m.

33 Ms. O'Hare said the meeting date has been changed to April 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

1 C. **"Birds, Their Side of the Story"**, presentation by John Himmelman, Cheshire Public Library,  
2 Tuesday, April 25, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.

3 Chair Heffernon urged Commission members to attend. CT Forest and Park Association are doing three  
4 hikes. Chair Heffernon said she and Commissioner Saunders attended the Field Forest Hike.

5 **F. DEEP magazine, CT Wildlife, Spring 2017**

6 **G. "Take a Hike!", Gray-Wolff Environmental Series**, Wallingford Public Library, Apr. 4 –  
7 report, D. Saunders & staff

8 Ms. O'Hare spoke about the presentation and noted Commissioner Saunders also attended. Ms. O'Hare  
9 passed around the flyer. She passed around the New England Trail flyer, the Tyler Mill Map and other trail  
10 maps in the region, and different spring activities.

11 **H. Charter Revision – report**

12 Chair Heffernon said electors will be voting on the Charter revisions at the November election. She spoke  
13 about the current language change regarding the Environmental Planner position.

14 **I. George Simpson memorial tree**

15 Chair Heffernon said she spoke with the people who did Commissioner Ryan's tree and mentioned the  
16 possible planting of a cultivar sugar maple, 7 to 9 feet tall. She noted no nurseries sell native sugar  
17 maples. She mentioned a growing bracelet that can be put around a tree.

18 **J. Sandplains, Allnex property – status**

19 Chair Heffernon said there has been an offer made on the Allnex property but it could take a year to go  
20 through. She said State Rep. Mushinsky is arranging a walk on the sandplain property.

21 **K. Vehicle idling, M. Heffernon**

22 Chair Heffernon spoke about receiving a few emails from Eloise Hazelwood, Health Department Director,  
23 regarding this issue. She said Ms. Hazelwood suggesting doing a series of public service announcements.  
24 Chair Heffernon said she would like to see a sign at the Transfer Station regarding idling and educate the  
25 public showing a film at the Library. Chair Heffernon noted it is illegal to idle a car over three minutes in CT  
26 unless in traffic. She suggested getting bumper stickers and flyers to spread the message. *Chair Heffernon*  
27 *will pursue this idea.*

28 **L. Report on status of CT Geological Survey work in Wallingford – staff**

29 Ms. O'Hare spoke about a draft compilation map showing all the fault lines and fissures in southern  
30 Wallingford completed for the CT Geological Survey by Randolph Steinen. Commissioner Saunders said she  
31 had seen the geologist working on outcrops in Tyler Mill Preserve.

32 **M. CT Forest & Park Association newsletter for CFPA Supporters, "Rock, Root & Trail",**  
33 *March 2017*

1           **N. CT Forest & Park Association magazine, CT Woodlands, Spring 2017**

2 Discussed by Chair Heffernon.

3 Ms. O'Hare spoke about a female Cooper's Hawk spotted in the Town Hall parking lot.

4 **9. NEXT MEETING** - May 11, 2017

5 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

6 A motion by Commissioner Pyskaty seconded by Vice-Chair Lathrop to adjourn the Meeting at 9:20 p.m.  
7 The vote was unanimous.

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10 Respectfully submitted,

11 Cynthia A. Kleist

12 Recording Secretary

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