

1 WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2 REGULAR MEETING

3 Thursday, April 14, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

4 Basement Conference Room Town Hall

5 45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT

6 **MINUTES**

7
8 **PRESENT:** Chair Mary Heffernon; Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Commissioners Dianne Saunders; Jeff Borne;
9 Dianne Lendler; Mark Ceneri; Jim Pyskaty; Tom Pietras; Carl Arsenault; Erin O'Hare, Environmental and
10 Natural Resources Planner; Jessica Wysocki, member of the public.

11 Call to order at 7:05 p.m.

12 **1. WELCOME COMMISSIONER MARK CENERI**

13 The Commission introduced themselves to new Commissioner Mark Ceneri and welcomed him.

14 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

15 **A. Minutes**, Regular Meeting Feb. 11, 2016

16 Line 7, page 2, line 6A, last word should be "and" not "add", and the next line should be "all" not "al."

17 **Motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2016 made by Vice-Chair**
18 **Lathrop and seconded by Commissioner Pyskaty. The vote was unanimous.**

19 **3. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

20 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

- 21 1. "*Tyler Mill Preserve: Planning for the Future*", habitat-based workshop with Dr. Michael
22 Klemens, and Daniel P. Quinn, co-sponsored by the Commission & the Library, Wallingford
23 Public Library, Apr. 16, 2016.

24
25 2. Management Plan

26 Chair Heffernon reminded the Commission about the Workshop which is also open to the public this
27 Saturday at the Library beginning at 10 a.m. Commissioner Saunders discussed the agenda. She said the
28 workshop should end at approximately 11:30 a.m. but the Workshop will continue to Tyler Mill Preserve,
29 Northford Road entrance at 1 p.m. when the public will be welcome to join in.

30 Commissioner Saunders discussed concepts for the future management plan. She said Anthony Zemba,
31 environmental specialist, is interested in the plan.

32 3. Stewards of Tyler Mill – report, D. Saunders

1 Commissioner Saunders presented her written Stewards report. She said damage on several trails was
2 cleared, and damage on the Pink Trail, south section, will be removed next week.

3 Commissioner Saunders said the Stewards monitored the vernal pools but noted it was too early for the
4 plantings and checked footbridges and boardwalks for damage of which there was none and monitored
5 opening day for fishing and also for the Quinnipiac Big Event.

6 She spoke about the cutting/hacking of saplings at two locations, possibly with a machete and spoke about
7 gawkers at the former Barrett property. She noted possible paintball usage in Tyler Mill at night and
8 recommended painting the trail post dark beige at the Green Trail behind the split rail fence at Vietnam
9 Veterans Park for greater visibility for hikers.

10 4. Proposal to re-route beginning of Yellow Trail – D. Saunders

11 Chair Heffernon spoke about possibly replacing the footbridge at the rear of the Vietnam Veterans
12 Memorial Park entrance to the Yellow Trail or re-routing the Trail. The Commission agreed to replace the
13 10-ft. footbridge.

14 5. Potential Boy Scout project

15 Chair Heffernon and Commissioner Saunders discussed having a Boy Scout Troop work on replacing the
16 footbridge on the Yellow Trail with the Stewards.

17 **B. Fresh Meadows**

18 1. Cottonwoods

19 Ms. O'Hare said Steve Palermo cut the cottonwoods a month ago as requested. She distributed photos.
20 She suggested planting tree saplings and clearing in between the existing line of pine trees.

21 2. CT Recreational Trail grant award

22 Ms. O'Hare said the Town applied July 15, 2015 for the grant and was recently informed the Trail Grant
23 was awarded. She said this Grant is bonded by the State. She said it is a \$228,000 grant with a 20 percent
24 match to construct three ADA trails at Fresh Meadows with pavement along Cheshire Road and stone dust
25 along the Pond trail and the Butterfly Meadow Trail, accessible to wheelchairs.

26 **C. Doolittle Park – riparian corridor earthwork**

27 Chair Heffernon said backhoes are needed to do the work on the sides of the corridor. She said there was
28 a quote of \$20,000 to \$25,000 for the work. Ms. O'Hare noted the work is to be done in low-flow periods
29 only. Commissioner Saunders said one possible funding source for the work may be the "Fee in Lieu Of"
30 program administered by Audubon CT.

31 **D. Marcus Cook Park – trails system, M. Heffernon, Chair, Trails Committee**

32 Chair Heffernon talked about improving the existing trails at the Park. She said she and Vice-Chair Lathrop
33 will visit the Park this weekend.

1 **E. Beseck Meadow**

2 1. ERT management plan proposal, staff

3 Ms. O'Hare explained the Environmental Review Team which responds to requests from towns and
4 conservation groups regarding various problems and assesses properties free of charge. She has not yet
5 submitted a request although the program is on hold at this juncture.

6 2. Second cutting

7 Ms. O'Hare said it was cut in November but a second cutting is needed. Commissioner Arsenault said most
8 of the Meadow was cut but a second cutting is needed. He said an \$800 proposal for the remaining third
9 cut and \$1,650 for a second cutting was received from the contractor/farmer who has cut the field for
10 several years. Commissioner Arsenault said the farmer would like to cut the area proposed for a possible
11 future lease at no charge to the town. The Farmland Committee and Ms. O'Hare met and are preparing a
12 lease proposal for hay.

13 Commissioner Arsenault spoke about dirt and stone dumped at Beseck Meadow near the bamboo area. *Ms.*
14 *O'Hare said she will visit the area and will ask Henry McCully to accompany her.*

15 3. Lease proposal – discussed above.

16 **F. Neal property** – tree clean-up, Sun. Apr. 17, 9 a.m.

17 Chair Heffernon spoke about a big tree down in the stream. She said she and Vice-Chair Lathrop will visit
18 the site Sunday morning with the student from Lyman Hall High School.

19 **G. Other properties**

20 1. Potential soccer field site – Parks & Recreation request

21 Chair Heffernon asked the Commission to come up with possible sites. She said five acres are needed if the
22 land is a perfect rectangle or eight acres if it is not.

23 **H. Volunteer projects**

24 **I.** 1. Quinnipiac University project, April 9 – report

25 Chair Heffernon reported the event took place last Saturday. She said five Quinnipiac students attended.
26 Commissioner Lendler said there needs to be better communication with the students.

27 **3.PROPERTY ACQUISITION/PRESERVATION**

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

29 Ms. O'Hare said there was nothing new to report regarding plans for the area. Commissioner Saunders
30 spoke about heavy equipment on the site and noted approximately one-half acre was cleared to dirt. The
31 Commission asked Ms. O'Hare to perform a wetlands inspection.

32 **B. Other**

33 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

1 **A. Lease field conditions (36 fields) and consideration of certain lease requirements –**
2 **status**

3 Ms. O'Hare said the meeting with the Farmland Lease Committee took place last week. Commissioner
4 Saunders said many of the leases will be bid in the fall and noted there are several new lease areas to
5 consider. Commissioner Saunders spoke about an organic farmer interested in leasing 20 acres in
6 Wallingford.

7 **B. State of CT Community Farmland Preservation Program – staff – Not discussed**

8 **C. Field 4A – required mowing – discussed below with Field 18A.**

9 **D. Field 18A – proposed change**

10 Commissioner Pietras spoke about the farmer requesting additional pasture land for heifers. Presently the
11 area in question is for vegetable farming and the lease would have to be amended. Ms. O'Hare and the
12 Committee are finalizing a revised lease map which will need to undergo administration review and
13 approval.

14 **MOTION: Commissioner Saunders moved that the Commission pursue allowing the lessee to**
15 **change the central portion of the small piece of property from cropland to pasture.**
16 **Commissioner Pietras seconded the motion.**

17 **Vote: Unanimous**

18 **E. Farmland Committee - discussed above.**

19 **5. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

20 **A. CT Trails Day, Hike at Tyler Mill Preserve, Sat. June 4, 2016, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

21 Chair Heffernon said Eric Hansen will lead the hike.

22 **B. Open Space Day**

23 Chair Heffernon spoke about the trail which goes from Whirlwind Hill Road, Fowler Mountain, near
24 Pistapaug Pond. She suggested this hike for the Fall Trail Day.

25 **6. OPEN SPACE USERS GROUP MEETING – Tues., April 26, 7:00 p.m.**

26 Chair Heffernon said this meeting takes place once a year for people interested in open space to discuss
27 issues. *Ms. O'Hare will provide John Gawlak a list of agenda items for the Meeting, as requested, which will*
28 *include the Fresh Meadows Trail Grant.*

29 Commissioner Saunders spoke about the Tyler Mill Management Plan and distributed photos.

30 **A. Request for agenda items by Apr. 15**

1 Ms. O'Hare took suggestions, which included the Farmland Lease program and the Fresh Meadow Trail
2 Grant, and the increase in hiking at Tyler Mill. Commissioner Borne spoke about the Police Mountain
3 Bike patrol.

4 **7. BUDGET FY 15-16**

5 **A. Commissioner Reimbursements**

6 Chair Heffernon requested invoices for items for the Big Event; for Commissioner Saunders-kiosk staining
7 for CACIWC and planting supplies, Quinnipiac refreshments and hunting signs. Ms. O'Hare said there is \$50
8 left in this account. Commissioner Lendler asked about possible fundraising and it was agreed this was
9 best left to private groups to do. *Reimbursement requests are to be submitted to Ms. O'Hare as soon as*
10 *possible.*

11 **B. Year end funds**

12 Ms. O'Hare said there was approximately \$4,000 left in the year end funds. The Commission talked
13 about the Canadian Thistle Treatment. Ms. O'Hare said there were three treatments done at Fresh
14 Meadows which were ineffective for this plant. She said she was informed weed whacking was
15 effective, however, Commissioner Arsenault said he would be interested in weed whacking the area.
16 Chair Heffernon suggested having several volunteers weed whack the area. The Commission discussed
17 alternatives to chemical usage to control the invasives, including the possible implementation of goats.
18 Commissioner Saunders suggested weed whacking for a year. *Ms. O'Hare was directed to ask Todd*
19 *Mervosh for ideas.*

20 The Commission will revisit the budget at the Saturday Special Meeting.

21

22 **8. BUDGET FY 16-17**

23 **A. Mayoral budget meeting, Mar. 2 – report**

24 Chair Heffernon spoke about her meeting with the Mayor.

25 **B. Town Council Public Hearing – April 7 – report**

26 Chair Heffernon said there were no questions from public.

27 **C. Town Council Budget Workshop – REVISED DATE: Tues,, April 19 6:30 p.m.**

28 **9. OTHER TOPICS**

29 **A. Commissioner Ryan memorial**

30 The Commission will discuss memorial ideas in the fall.

1 Commissioner Borne spoke about Commissioner Pyskaty being appointed to the Charter Revision
2 Commission. He said Wallingford is the only Town which has a town employee answering to a non-Town
3 employee. He suggested the Charter Revision Commission discuss this situation.

4 **Motion : Commissioner Borne made a motion to have Commissioner Pyskaty pose this**
5 **question to the Charter Revision Commission regarding the Environmental Planner reporting**
6 **to a Town Supervisor. He is to report back to the Commission. Vice-Chair Lathrop seconded**
7 **the motion.**

8 **Vote: 8 ayes -1 abstain-Ceneri**

9 **C. Other**

10 Vice-Chair Lathrop spoke about email correspondence between Commissioners and categories of emails.
11 He asked the Commissioners to respond to the emails with a simple "Got It" to assure receipt.
12 Commissioner Borne suggested inserting a subject line into the emails.

13 **10. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS (includes notices received since February Meeting)**

14 **A. PZC – "(Draft) Wallingford Plan of Conservation and Development – 2016 Update",**
15 **(Public Hearing, June 6); dated 2/12/16; received 4/13/16 –staff. Received by Commission – 4/14/16.**

16 **B. Audubon Sharon, "Raptors & Riesling" Fundraiser Invitation, May 9, 2016, 5-7 p.m.**
17 **Received by Commission 4/14/16.**

18 **C. DEEP- Permit Application for the Use of Pesticides in State Waters – Stahl Holdings,**
19 **LLC, (dba The Pond Connection) – 181 Maltby Lane – Levine Pond; received 2/16/16 – Received by**
20 **Commission 4/14/16.**

21 **D. DEEP – Notice of Tentative Decision – Intent to Modify A National Pollutant**
22 **Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit For the Following Discharges Into the Waters**
23 **of the State of CT; 528 Cherry St. – Allnex, USA, Inc., - Quinnipiac River (continuous discharge of**
24 **wastewater discharges associated with specialty chemical manufacturing operations) and a tributary of**
25 **Quinnipiac River (intermittent non-process wastewater discharges); received 2/24/16 – Received by**
26 **Commission 4/14/16.**

27 **E. CACIWC newsletter, "The Habitat", Winter 2016 – distributed to Commission.**

28 **F. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Public Notice – (60 days) – Proposed Replacement**
29 **and Revision of the Department of the Army Connecticut General Permit (GP); dated 3/18/16 –**
30 **Received by Commission – 4/14/16/**

31 **G. DEEP Permit Application for the Use of Pesticides in State Waters – Fieldstone Farms**
32 **Association – Northeast Tree, Pond & Turf Services, Inc.; dated 3/15/16; received 3/16/16 – Received by**
33 **Commission 4/14/16.**

1 **H. DEEP Notice of Tentative Determination To Approve an Application For Diversion of**
2 **Water Permit and Intent to Waive Public Hearing** – Applicant: The Tradition Golf Club at
3 Wallingford, LLC – withdrawal of a total combined maximum daily amount of 300,000 gallons of water per
4 day from two on-site ponds for the purpose of golf course irrigation and will affect Allen Brook; dated
5 3/18/16; received 3/12/16; Received by Commission – 4/14/16.

6 **I. Southwest Conservation District newsletter – “Soil & Water”,** Spring 2016 – Received by
7 Commission 4/14/16.

8 **J. CT Land Conservation Council – 2016 CT Conservation Conference,** Wesleyan University,
9 Middletown, CT, March 19, 2016 – reports of attendees – Not Taken Up.

10 **K. Parks & Recreation Department request** – Community Lake Park – thinning proposal – not
11 discussed by Commission.

12 **L. Audubon Connecticut – appeal;** received 3/4/16; Received by Commission – 4/14/16.

13 **M. CFPA magazine, “CT. Woodlands”, spring** 2016 – (highlights: imperiled sandplains; “silver
14 tsunami” in woodlot ownership; proposed legislation) – staff; Received by Commission 4/14/16.

15 **N. DEEP – “CT’s Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern Species – 2015”**
16 document -Received by Commission 4/14/16.

17 **O. DEEP – CT Geological Survey work in Tyler Mill Preserve, etc.,** - not discussed by
18 Commission.

19 **P. CT Land Conservation Council – Lobby Day,** Wed., April 20, 2016, 10 a.m. -12 p.m.,
20 Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT – Received by Commission 4/14/16.

21 **Q. DEEP Annual Trails Conference – Oct. 2016** – request for topics – not discussed by
22 Commission.

23
24 **ADJOURNMENT**

25 Commissioner Pyskaty made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 9:47 p.m. Commissioner Ceneri seconded
26 the motion which passed unanimously.

27 Respectfully submitted,

28 Cynthia A. Kleist

29 Recording Secretary