

1 WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2 REGULAR MEETING

3 Thursday, May 14, 2015 – 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; Dianne Saunders; Tom  
9 Pietras; Dianne Lendler; Carl Arsenaault; Jeff Borne; Jim Pyskaty; Erin O'Hare, Environmental and Natural  
10 Resources Planner; Don Roe, Program Planner and Grants Administrator; Chris Reynolds, Southern  
11 Berkshire Golden Retriever Club.

12 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioner Ken Ryan.

13 Chair Heffernon called the Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and took the agenda in the following order.

14 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

15 **D. Field 2A (or any Town field) - Hunting Dog Training**

16 Chair Heffernon said John Gawlak, Parks & Recreation Director, asked the Commission to look into this  
17 issue because some people have been using town fields for hunting. Mr. Reynolds said his group has been  
18 training on the field near the Blue Trails for a while near Ulbricht reservoir and now realize a permit is  
19 needed. He said the dogs are training for the hunting test, and the AKC test. He gave the Commission the  
20 dates for the hunting training test. Commissioner Pietras said the training schedules should be forwarded  
21 to the farmers if allowed.

22 Chair Heffernon said on Town owned fields that the farmer leases, public access must be granted to the  
23 perimeter of the field, not the middle of the field.

24 Commissioner Saunders said there are three impromptu hunting dog groups using the fields which are also  
25 a concern to her. She suggested Parks & Rec issue a permit to Mr. Reynolds, and those without the permit  
26 could not access the fields with their hunting dogs.

27 Don Roe, Program Planner and Grants Administrator, said any use should require a permit and noted there  
28 should be clarification. Chair Heffernon said John Gawlak, Parks & Recreation Director, should clarify this  
29 with the Police Department. Mr. Roe expressed concern about regulating the use of the fields. Ms. O'Hare  
30 noted the hunting season on some fields and asked where the pheasants are stocked.

31 Commissioner Saunders said the pheasants are stocked in Tyler Mill at the edges of the fields. She said the  
32 Rod & Gun Club are the vendors to stock the pheasants which takes place two weeks before hunting  
33 season opening day. Ms. O'Hare questioned if the permit would go to the dog club or to individual people.  
34 Commissioner Saunders said it should specify who is on the permit. Chair Heffernon said this permit would  
35 have to be decided on an individual basis with specific times and with the names of the group members on

1 the permit and would specify the field to be used. Commissioner Arsenault suggested a sign be erected by  
2 permittee stating "Hunting Dog Training By Permit Only".

3 Commissioner Borne asked how big an area the hunting training dog club would need. Mr. Reynolds said  
4 the size of the field would vary depending on the trial exercise. The Commission discussed allowing Mr.  
5 Reynolds to utilize the fields and obtain a permit.

6 Commissioner Arsenault felt the use would damage the fields. Mr. Roe suggested this issue be addressed  
7 in the future Tyler Mill Preserve Management Plan.

8 **A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SAUNDERS SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LENDLER TO ALLOW**  
9 **THE SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB TO OBTAIN THE PERMIT FROM JOHN**  
10 **GAWLAK- COMMISSIONERS LENDLER, SAUNDERS, PYSKATY, LATHROP, APPROVED AND**  
11 **COMMISSIONERS ARSENAULT AND BORNE OPPOSED.**

12 **B.Fresh Meadows**

- 13 1. Trail plan – final plan drawings & Loop Trail crossing  
14 2. State of CT DEEP Recreational Trails Program – grant application – options

15 Mr. Roe said two years ago the Town applied to the DEEP for a Trail Grant on the old Galko property. He  
16 said the Town did not receive that grant. He said this application was based on the conceptual plan and  
17 the Commission hired Lenard Engineering to do more detailed work on the three trails on the original  
18 application. He said when the Town learned it was eligible to apply for the grant one month ago, he met  
19 with Ms.O'Hare, and Joan Stave, the ADA person to discuss this. He said some things have changed with  
20 the project and wondered what trail work should be included. Mr. Roe said he was concerned that the  
21 Town looks to create as strong as an application as possible, because the last time, there were significant  
22 weaknesses in the narrative. He said the application must be strong. He asked the Commission to discuss  
23 what trails should be included in the grant. He distributed a sheet on how the DEEP scores the grant  
24 applications. Mr. Roe said the past application had approximately 3,100 ft. of trail including the pond trail  
25 and the butterfly meadow trail.

26 He said since then, there was a scout project providing a trail to the skating pond. He noted the butterfly  
27 meadow plantings are not an eligible expense and if this trail is included in the grant application, how will  
28 the butterfly habitat will be realized. Mr. Roe said there is a stronger application if all three trails can be  
29 included, but wondered if this would be feasible. He said the grant requires a 20 percent match. Vice-  
30 Chair Lathrop said if the Pond Trail that Zachary Blum worked on was included, this would fortify the grant.

31 Mr. Roe said the Town started on the north side, but maybe should have focused on the trails on the south  
32 side to connect with the Land Trust trails. He passed out the scoring sheet which focuses on the 20 criteria  
33 DEEP uses for the grant. He said extra points are granted if a municipal trail abuts to a State Trail. Ms.  
34 O'Hare asked what surface treatments would be used. Mr. Roe indicated, based on the literature he  
35 perused, the trail doesn't necessarily have to be paved with blacktop. He said some of these materials  
36 have a longer lifespan and are more easily maintained than others. He suggested the Town do an  
37 experiment to see what materials last the longest. He suggested the Butterfly Trail have bituminous and  
38 should be part of the application and suggested stone dust be applied on the Cheshire Road trail. He said  
39 detailed cost estimates must also be prepared.

1 Ms. O'Hare said if the grant is awarded, everything must be completed within a two-year period.

2 Mr. Roe said the ADA trails have to be addressed more fully in this application. He said his office is  
3 prepared to proceed and can we create a stronger application than what was originally submitted. He  
4 asked the Commission for assistance in tracking down information from other individuals and  
5 organizations. Mr. Roe said the deadline for submitting the grant is July 1. Commissioner Borne said the  
6 Commission should pursue this and have Parks & Recreation assist.

7 Chair Heffernon read an email of support for this endeavor from Commissioner Ken Ryan.

8 *Chair Heffernon said she would contact the State delegation which represents Wallingford and a*  
9 *representative from CT. Forest & Parks Association, CT. Butterfly Association, and other regional groups.*  
10 *Commissioner Lendler will pursue obtaining letters from Ashlar Village Gaylord Hospital, and the Masonic*  
11 *Home regarding the ADA trails. Mr. Roe will obtain a letter from the Recreation Commission.*

12 *Mr. Roe will suggest preparing a basic paragraph of information and emailing this information to*  
13 *Commission members.*

14 He encouraged having a meeting with Steve Palermo, General Foreman, Public works Dept., John Gawlak,  
15 Parks & Recreation Director, Mayor Dickinson and Henry McCully, Public Works Director, to discuss  
16 maintenance. Commissioner Saunders suggested there be a point person involved in the project.

17 **MOTION: A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BORNE SECOND BY COMMISSIONER PYSKATY TO**  
18 **PROCEED WITH THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE FRESH MEADOWS OPEN SPACE TRAIL.**  
19 **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

20 Mr. Roe requested the Commission provide him possible sources of funds for establishment of the butterfly  
21 meadow.

22

23 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

24 **A. Minutes, Special Meeting, April 9, 2015**

25 On page 3, item # 2A-5 should read allocate "up to 400".

26 On page 3 item #8 Tamarac Project- should also complement Vice-Chair Lathrop.

27 On page 6 item #9, FY 15-16 Public Hearing bottom page "Other Topics"- should read glyphosates  
28 "probably" cause cancer.

29 **MOTION: A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BORNE, SECOND BY VICE-CHAIR LATHROP TO**  
30 **APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2015 AS AMENDED. THE MOTION**  
31 **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

32 **B. Minutes, Special Meeting, April 20, 2015**

33 On the second paragraph, Emily Picard is not the Director of the Center; she is the natural resources  
34 teacher of the Center

1 **MOTION: A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER BORNE SECOND BY COMMISSIONER PYSKATY TO**  
2 **APPROVE THE SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2015 AS AMENDED. THE MOTION**  
3 **WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

5 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

6 1. Ash trees status & salvaging project

7 Chair Heffernon suggested setting up a date in the first week of June to discuss this project with Mayor  
8 Dickinson. *Commissioner Arsenault and Commissioner Borne will visit the area on Saturday in Tyler Mill*  
9 *Preserve to suggest where to perform the ash tree salvaging project where the goal is to release desirable*  
10 *tree species and to salvage ash and unhealthy trees.*

11 2. Remaining planned improvement – staff

12 Nothing to report.

13 3. Visit to Lyman Hall High School Agricultural, Science, and Technology Center, April  
14 20, 2015

15 Chair Heffernon said this was a great visit with most of the Commissioners attending. She spoke about the  
16 aquaculture, the classrooms and the students.

17 4. Stewards of Tyler Mill, D. Saunders

18 Commissioner Saunders distributed her report. She said the Stewards have been concentrating on the Les  
19 Mehrhoff project and said every single plant has blossomed or has buds except one plant. She said the  
20 Stewards are working on removing knotweed at the main entrance to Tyler Mill Preserve and by the bridge  
21 and will obtain the plants next week. She spoke about eradicating the wild lettuce. She said the mugwort is  
22 on the horse trail side and on the west side, not near where the plants will be placed. She said the section  
23 of the Gold Trail boardwalk was completed with the Community Service students and the connector near  
24 the Corduroy trail was also completed.

25 5. Trail maps for kiosks – status, D. Saunders

26 Chair Heffernon indicated the new maps will wait until the resolution of the Barrett Property issue is  
27 completed.

28 Commissioner Saunders spoke about her position paper regarding the closing of the road in the winter  
29 which she distributed to the Commission.

30 6. Opening of hunting season signage

31 Nothing to report

32 7. Entrance area plant restoration project – D. Saunders

33 Taken up in the Stewards Report above.

34 8. Tree by bridge

1 Commissioner Saunders spoke about the sugar maple tree at the main parking lot entrance at Tyler Mill  
2 Preserve which may be splitting off on one side. She said the tree may damage the bridge and the parking  
3 lot. She said she contacted Wallingford Tree Service and received a quote to cable the tree for \$660.  
4 *Commissioners Borne and Arsenault will inspect the tree.*

5 3. Maintenance of Eagle Scout project area

6 Chair Heffernon spoke about Zachary Blum's email which stated he will use a DR Mower and provided a list  
7 of people who will be working on the maintenance of the trail. Chair Heffernon said this email will be sent  
8 to John Gawlak, Parks & Recreation Director.

9 4. Eagle Scout Court of Honor, First Congregational Church, May 30, 5:00 p.m.

10 Chair Heffernon urged the Commissioners to attend Zachary Blum's Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

11 3. Visit to observe ADA accessible trails at CT Audubon, Fairfield and Trout Brook  
12 Preserve, Easton, CT., May 2- report

13 Commissioner Saunders spoke about the stone dust used on the trails. She distributed photos she had  
14 taken on the two sites. She will turn in the photos of the Saugatuck Reservoir. Chair Heffernon said the  
15 trails were beautiful and noted it seemed the trails did not need a lot of maintenance.

16 **C. Doolittle Park**

17 1. Riparian Corridor Restoration project- status

18 Ms. O'Hare said this needs an Army Corps of Engineer individual permit which could take from four months  
19 or longer to obtain.

20 **D. Volunteer Projects**

21 1. Quinnipiac University "Big Event", April 11 – report

22 Commissioner Arsenault said work was done on the lower part of the White Trail with brush clearing and  
23 clearing fallen trees. He said the White Trail was rerouted out of the field which was also cleared. He said  
24 the Green Trail needs to be remarked along where improvements to Vietnam Vets Park were made at the  
25 turn-around. Chair Heffernon said the students worked hard.

26 **E. Other properties**

27 **3. PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

28 **A. Tyler Mill Road property – status**

29 Taken up above.

30 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

31 **A. Field 13A – bid proposal – status**

32 No updates

33 **B. Field 9C – fence restoration – status**

1 No update.

2 **C. Field 14A** – encroachment status –Not discussed

3 **D. Field 2A (or any Town field)** – hunting dog training

4 Taken up above.

5 **C. Farmland Committee**

6 Not discussed

7 **D. Other property issues**

8 Not discussed.

9 **5. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

10 **A. CT. Trails Day-** farm tour hike, June 6, 10 a.m. -12 p.m.

11 Chair Heffernon said people will be meeting at the entryway off Tyler Mill Road and hiking the Lilac Trail.

12 Commissioner Saunders said the hikers will end up at Colleen Auger’s farm if it works out.

13 **B. Wallingford Garden Club presentation on Wallingford Open Space**, Mary Heffernon,  
14 First Congregational Church, May 12, 11:20 a.m.

15 Chair Heffernon spoke about her PowerPoint presentation given on May 12, on wildflowers and wildlife.

16 **C. QRWA High School Student Science Education event**, QRWA headquarters, Meriden,  
17 assisted with M. Heffernon, May 5 – report

18 Chair Heffernon spoke about how she taught the high school students how to kayak. She passed around  
19 letters the students wrote about their experience. She said the QRWA gets funding for this from 3M grants.

20 **6. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE**

21 **A. Status**, M. Heffernon, J. Borne, & staff

22 No updates.

23 **B. Mapping** – Not discussed

24 **7. OTHER TOPICS** – Not discussed

25 **8. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

26 **A. Wallingford Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD)** – PZC Special Meeting re:  
27 Steering Committee, April 20 – report – M. Heffernon

28 Chair Heffernon said she is on the Steering Committee for Open Space and Agriculture.

1           **B. CFPA seminar:** "Grow Your Own Meadow," CFPA Headquarters, Rockfall, CT, Sat. May 30, 1  
2 p.m. Chair Heffernon and Ms. O'Hare will attend. Commissioner Saunders attended the seminar last year.

3           **C. Bamboo statute** - correspondence to pertinent property owners – staff

4 Ms. O'Hare said local authorization is needed, but for now, letters can be sent to property owners where  
5 bamboo grows per the opinion of Corporate Counsel Janis Small. She said she is making a list of the  
6 properties in Town which have the running bamboo and letters have been sent.

7           **9. NEXT MEETING- June 11, 2015**

8           **10. ADJOURNMENT**

9           **MOTION: A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LENDLER SECOND BY COMMISSIONER PYSKATY TO**  
10 **ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:06 P.M. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

11

12 Respectfully submitted,

13 Cynthia A. Kleist

14 Recording Secretary