

1 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **REGULAR MEETING**

3 **Thursday, June 8, 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 Carl Arsenault; Tom Pietras;
9 Dianne Lendler; Dianne Saunders; Mark Ceneri; Erin O'Hare Environmental Planner

10 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioners Jeff Borne and Jim Pyskaty.

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

12 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

13 **A. Minutes, Regular Meeting, May 11, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.**

14 Chair Heffernon said on page 2 under 4C -"Fresh Meadows bluebird project", it was Commissioner
15 Arsenault who ordered the kits for the bluebird project;

16 Chair Heffernon said under 6.D, she reminded Ms. O'Hare that Field 1C and Field 2A are on North Branford
17 Road; under 7.B, "Vehicle Idling" was a college intern, not a high school intern. Under 4.A.2 "emergency
18 numbers, Chair Heffernon said they have all been replaced.

19 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Ceneri second by Commissioner Lendler to approve the**
20 **Regular Meeting of May 11, 2017 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.**

21 **B. Minutes, Special Meeting, May 28, 2017 – 9:00 a.m. – tabled to the July meeting**

22
23 **2. TREE DEDICATION – for Ken Ryan, June 4, 2017, 4:00 p.m. – report**

24 Chair Heffernon said 15 family members, two Land Trust Board members, Mayor Dickinson and eight
25 Commissioners attended. Chair Heffernon thanked the Commissioners for attending and for their
26 contributions. Chair Heffernon said she will talk to Commissioner Arsenault regarding the installation of Ken
27 Ryan's rock.

28 **3. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

29 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

30 **1. Stewards of Tyler Mill, D. Saunders & D. Lendler**

31 Commissioner Saunders distributed the Stewards of Tyler Mill report. She said a lot of trail work was done.
32 She said the north section of the Red, Green and Blue Trails were cleared and noted a lot of trees are

1 continuing to fall from two years of drought. Commissioner Saunders spoke about the Gypsy Moth
2 damage. She said invasive plant work is continuing, primarily on garlic mustard, Japanese Knotweed,
3 *Cardamine impatiens* and mugwort. She showed photos of the roadside edges which she noted are doing
4 well.

5 Commissioner Saunders said the Water Division mowed their Right-Of-Way at the Northford Road entrance
6 to Tyler Mill Preserve. She spoke about the visit to Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in
7 Burlington, CT. She said four Stewards and Chair Heffernon attended. They observed early succession
8 demonstration plots with Peter Picone, DEEP biologist.

9 Commissioner Saunders reported on seven dumpings in two weeks, mostly landscape debris and noted a
10 raven's nest was found downslope off the ledge. She said a request for approval to install a trail cam next
11 year was made. She reported the gate on Field 7D on Anderson Road was also down.

12 2. Habitat Survey – status

13 Ms. O'Hare distributed the survey from Michael Klemens who reported that of 19 spots previously identified
14 as vernal pools, only two were true vernal pools. She summarized the findings.

15 Commissioner Saunders noted that it is relatively dry compared to 10 to 15 years ago and said Tamarack
16 Swamp's water level is down from 2000-2001. Ms. O'Hare said Mr. Klemens recommended what areas
17 should be preserved in his report. Ms. O'Hare noted that Mr. Klemens also recommended the restoration of
18 vernal pool #1 and to re-route the trail and eradicate invasive species. Ms. O'Hare suggested conducting a
19 workshop to discuss the Management Plan. The Commission concurred. Commissioner Saunders agreed to
20 Chair this Ad-Hoc Committee. Commissioners Lendler, Ceneri, Ms. O'Hare and Vice-Chair Lathrop agreed to
21 work on this Ad-Hoc Committee.

22 Commissioner Lendler suggested distilling the action recommendations from search of the Preserve studies
23 that have been done. Commissioner Ceneri questioned if the land can be used to generate funds needed
24 to complete a management plan. Chair Heffernon noted that Eric Hansen of Ferrucci & Waliki and Tom
25 Woolsey of UCONN Extension, are available to do educational and demonstration areas.

26 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Lathrop second by Commissioner Ceneri to form an ad-hoc**
27 **Tyler Mill Preserve Management Plan Committee. The vote was unanimous.**

28 3. Discussion of night mountain biking proposal (Nov.-Feb.)

29 Ms. O'Hare said she contacted Parks and Recreation Director John Gawlak regarding the night mountain
30 biking proposal and said he told her he would get back to her with information in July or August. The
31 Commission further discussed this issue and will wait for information from Mr. Gawlak. The consensus after
32 considerable discussion was that the Commission was not in favor of this night mountain biking proposal
33 because of numerous concerns.

34 B. Ferguson Woods – tree vandalism

35 Chair Heffernon reported that a man was arrested for cutting trees in Ferguson Woods and that the court
36 date was last week. *Commissioner Saunders will make an inventory of the cut trees.*

1 **C. Fresh Meadows**

2 1. CT Recreational Trails Grant Program Project – update

3 Ms. O'Hare said Lenard Engineering is working on a \$4,800 contract. The Engineering Department have to
4 will the plans and prepare a bid proposal from them. Ms. O'Hare said herself and Town Engineer Rob
5 Baltramaitis came to an agreement over the use of stone aggregate on the trail versus stone dust.
6 Screenings will be used which has DOT specifications and is 3/8 inch or less in size.

7 Ms. O'Hare also noted that Lenard Engineering recommended the sign posts be made of wood at the base
8 not concrete so they would be easier to replace if vandalized. Ms. O'Hare noted the conifer trees will not
9 have to be surveyed as Lenard Engineering completed the assignment using Google Earth.

10 **D. Beseck Meadow – bamboo management**

11 Ms. O'Hare said area off Powder Hill Road has been leased out. She said the new lessee will cut the access
12 way. She said she had Commissioner Saunders send an email to Caryn Rickel, Institute of Bamboo
13 Research, to ask if it was alright to have the lessee or anyone chop down the bamboo on the property. She
14 said Ms. Rickel said this was permissible, noting the cut bamboo pieces would not sprout. Commissioner
15 Saunders said she was concerned that when lessee cut the bamboo, it might stir up rhizome pieces and
16 said she would rather not have the lessee cut the bamboo. She suggested the Commission have a work
17 party to cut the bamboo itself. *Commissioner Saunders will draft a memo regarding bamboo treatment to*
18 *Steve Palermo, Public Works Foreman, and Ms. O'Hare.* The work party will cut the bamboo, and it will
19 regrow to two feet tall whereupon Public Works will chemically treat it and repeat these steps in
20 September.

21 **E. Quinnipiac River Linear Trail – invasive plants, M. Heffernon**

22 Chair Heffernon said the Commission was asked by the Quinnipiac River Linear Trail Advisory Committee
23 to look for bamboo on the old Linear Trail, but it was determined to be Japanese Knotweed. She noted
24 there was also a lot of Phragmites. Ms. O'Hare noted the new trail has an invasive plant management
25 program as part of the approved project. Commissioner Saunders recommended consulting Todd Mervosh,
26 General Manager, TM Agricultural and Ecological Services, regarding this issue.

27 **F. Lufbery Park - alterations activities**

28 Chair Heffernon spoke about the Park alteration and the frisbee golf activities.

29 **G. Other properties – discussed under Reports & Correspondence**

30 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

31 **A. Field 1C & 1D, North Branford Rd – R.O.W. issue**

32 Ms.O'Hare said this R.O.W. issue regarding the Rod & Gun Club will be discussed at a meeting with Mayor
33 Dickinson on June 26 at 10:30 a.m. which she said will be attended by John Gawlak, Ms. O'Hare,
34 Commissioner Saunders, and Chair Heffernon.

1 **B. Lease revision proposals**

2 Ms. O'Hare said she and Commissioner Saunders and the Farmland Lease Committee are discussing ideas
3 on how to keep things under control.

4 **C. Farmland Committee – discussed under Lease revision proposals**

5 **5. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

6 **A. CT Trails Day, Tyler Mill Preserve hike, June 3, 8 -10 a.m. – reports**

7 Commissioner Lendler noted that no members of the public showed up for the hike. She said five people
8 from the Commission went on the hike which went from Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park to Woodhouse
9 Avenue. She talked about the Lady slippers she observed while on the hike. Chair Heffernon thanked
10 Commissioners Lendler and Ceneri and the Commissioners who attended the hike.

11 **B. Vehicle idling – status**

12 Chair Heffernon said an intern in the Health Department visited several sites documenting vehicle idling
13 and wrote an abstract on this issue. Chair Heffernon spoke about a possible public education campaign
14 and possibly have signage at the schools and the transfer stations regarding this issue.

15 **6. REPORTS & COMMISSIONS**

16 **A. George Simpson memorial tree**

17 Chair Heffernon said the tree is watered every week.

18 **B. Charter Revision regarding Environmental Planner position – report, M. Heffernon**

19 Chair Heffernon said at the joint Town Council/Charter Revision Commission meeting a few weeks ago,
20 IWWC Chairman Jim Vitali requested the Charter Revision Commission not make the change to the
21 Environmental Planner position that Chair Heffernon had requested. She said Town Councilor John
22 LeTourneau made a motion and Mr. Vitali's request was not passed.

23 **C. CFPA newsletter, *Rock, Root & Trail*, May 2017 – distributed by Ms. O'Hare**

24 **D. DEEP Notice – Diversion Permit Approval – Tilcon CT., Inc., 1605 Durham Road,**
25 **Wallingford, CT, as per permittee's application filed July 2, 2003.**

26 Ms. O'Hare said DEEP approved the proposed water diversion permits from 2003. She said this involves
27 using groundwater for settling ponds.

28 **E. National Woodlands Owners Association magazine, *National Woodlands*, Spring 2017 –**
29 **distributed by Ms. O'Hare**

30 **F. Allnex – in-lieu fee proposals**

1 Chair Heffernon said Allnex had an environmental problem which they reported to DEEP and either have to
2 pay a fine or do an environmental type program for the Town. She noted that a new law in CT states that
3 for every trash container there has to be a recycling container nearby. Chair Heffernon said she believes
4 Allnex will be purchasing the recycling containers for the Town as part of the fine.

5 **G.Audubon Sharon – appeal**

6 Ms. O'Hare said this is a request for money.

7 **H. DEEP magazine – *Connecticut Wildlife*, March 2017 – presented to the Commission**

8 Ms. O'Hare said she received an email from DEEP regarding classification of forest regulations which went
9 into effect June 1, 2017. She distributed the regulations to the Commission. Ms. O'Hare also spoke about a
10 resident at 33 Maltby Lane whose property abuts Town property, who is requesting a variance to construct
11 an oversize garage. Ms. O'Hare also spoke about a proposed solar array at the Town Landfill which is
12 scheduled to be on June's Planning & Zoning Commission's agenda.

13 **NEXT MEETING - July 13, 2017**

14 **ADJOURN**

15 Commissioner Ceneri made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 9:12 p.m. Vice Chair Lathrop seconded the
16 motion which passed unanimously.

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18 Respectfully submitted,

19 Cynthia A. Kleist

20 Recording Secretary

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