

1 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **REGULAR MEETING**

3 **Thursday, June 13, 2013**

4 **7 p.m.**

5 **Town Hall, Basement Conference Room**

6 **45 South Main Street**

7 **Wallingford, Connecticut**

8 **MINUTES**

9  
10 **PRESENT:** Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne Saunders; Dianne Lendler; Carl  
11 Arsenault; John Lathrop; Jim Pyskaty; Environmental and Natural Resources Planner Erin  
12 O'Hare; Lisa and Erin Williams, members of the public.

13 **NOT PRESENT:** Chairman Jeffrey Borne; Commissioners Ken Ryan and Tom Pietras.

14 Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon, acting as Chair in Chairman Borne's absence, convened the meeting  
15 at 7:02 p.m.

16 The agenda was taken in the following order:

17 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

18 **A. Minutes, May 9, 2013**

19 Page 5 should read "line 31" not "line 13."

20 Page 2, second sentence, strike out "trail with" after corduroy. The third sentence on the same  
21 page should read work on the Red Trail will begin "after the wildflowers bloom."

22 Page 3, item D-1 second line should read "treatment" not "immediate treatment."

23 Page 5, under item 5A, budget motion, should read "\$150 for the footbridge."

24 Also, insert "Vice-Chair Heffernon questioned whether the Commission might explore using  
25 materials other than pressure-treated wood for the footbridges and "Vice-Chair Heffernon and  
26 Commissioner Saunders will collaborate on the type of wood for the footbridge."

27 Page 5, under 6A, second paragraph, the last sentence should read "Commissioner Saunders  
28 will provide Ms. O'Hare another copy of the list of Steward names."

1 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner Psykaty to**  
2 **approve the May 9 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.**

3 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

4 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

- 5 1. DEP Recreational Trails Grant Program – parking lots, entranceways, and  
6 kiosks

7 Ms. O'Hare said there is no new information regarding the parking lots. She said the two kiosks  
8 have been completed, and the kiosk on Maltby Lane, which has not been completed, needs to  
9 have Public Works come and drill through the asphalt to set the kiosk in place working with the  
10 contractor. Ms. O'Hare distributed a photo of the kiosks and the new maps for the kiosks.

11 Commissioner Lendler suggested there was no reason to wait to schedule the Parking Lot Sub  
12 Committee meeting as created at the last Open Space Users Group meeting. *Ms. O'Hare will*  
13 *schedule it.*

14 3. Tyler Mill Preserve Trails Map

15 Ms. O'Hare said the charge for laminating the maps would be \$2 a square foot. She said  
16 changes were made on the maps as requested. Commissioner Saunders suggested utilizing  
17 computer software that would make the trails on the map seem more enhanced by making a  
18 broader line.

19 Acting Chair Heffernon said this matter will be taken up by the Trails Committee later on. Ms.  
20 O'Hare said the maps will be placed in the brochure box in the kiosks. When the Trail Maps are  
21 produced on an 8 ½ " by 11" size they need to be customized.

22 Ms. O'Hare said the two hunting parking areas have been removed from the DEEP Hunting  
23 Permit area Map.

24 Ms. O'Hare spoke about the regulation signs which were re-done with the "caution horses"  
25 language added. She said the regulation maps will be done with an ivory background with  
26 black and red lettering with the title in green lettering. Ms. O'Hare spoke about the Tyler Mill  
27 Entrance sign. She showed a mockup of different signs and said the cost to construct the sign  
28 from ¾" MDO plywood would be approximately \$800; if the sign is constructed with 1½" high  
29 density urethane, the cost would be approximately \$1,800. She noted there would be an extra  
30 charge for the posts. Commissioner Lathrop suggested using urethane which would last longer  
31 than wood. Ms. O'Hare said the urethane sign, even though it costs more, can be carved with  
32 the gold leaf, whereas the plywood sign will be flat and look like the more rural Town open  
33 space signs. Ms. O'Hare said she will be sending out quotes to four sign makers.

34 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner Pyskaty to**  
35 **opt for the 1½" high density carved urethane sign for the Tyler Mill Preserve Trails**  
36 **which will be green with a single border on the outside. Ms. O'Hare will check on the**  
37 **paint color. The motion passed unanimously.**

38 *Ms. O'Hare will install the laminated Trails Maps in the two kiosks that have already been*  
39 *installed.*

1                                    2. Proposed footbridges

2 Commissioner Saunders said the footbridge was installed on the muddiest section of the Green  
3 Trail as a restoration. She said some corduroy must be done in the approach area. She said the  
4 second set of footbridges in the floodplain is on hold until the wildflowers are done blooming.  
5 She said she asked for - but has not yet received - prices for putting either oak slats on top of  
6 the footbridges or using wider planking. She said she has two different drawings but is waiting  
7 for a price. Commissioner Saunders said the Boy Scouts helping with some of this project  
8 would not be available until the end of June.

9 Ms. O'Hare indicated the next wetland application deadline for the footbridges is July 23.

10                                    **B. Fresh Meadows**

11                                    1. Improvements

12 Ms. O'Hare said the \$6,000 in the budget for professional services must be expended by June  
13 30, the end of the Fiscal Year. She said she completed a bidproposal for a landscape architect  
14 or an engineering firm to do the base survey and the engineering drawings for the three ADA  
15 (Americans with Disabilities Act) trails and the little parking lot to be located on the south side  
16 of Cheshire Road. Ms. O'Hare said she sent the proposal to the Purchasing Dept. and  
17 they indicated the earliest opening would be July 10 or later in light of the timeframes involved.  
18 She said Chairman Borne had then approved use of the funds for additional eradication of  
19 invasive species as suggested by her office. She said an RFQ (Request for Quote) for this was  
20 sent out on Tuesday. Ms. O'Hare said she has also begun work on quotes for the Trees of  
21 Heaven eradication project and the Tyler Mill Entranceway eradication project.

22                                    **C. Beseck Meadow – bamboo project – report**

23 Ms. O'Hare said Todd Mervosh of the CT Agricultural Experiment Station who was scheduled to  
24 do the bamboo treatment has been reassigned and will not be able to do the treatment. Ms.  
25 O'Hare said the Commission will have to hire a contractor for eradication of the bamboo stand.  
26 Commissioner Saunders said Mr. Mervosh was re-assigned to the office and will not be available  
27 for site visits. She gave a report on the bamboo and recent legislation relative to running  
28 bamboo to Ms. O'Hare as requested by Chairman Borne.

29 *Ms. O'Hare and Commissioner Saunders will research effective treatments with which to*  
30 *eradicate the bamboo and Ms. O'Hare will get an opinion from the Law Department on*  
31 *interpretation of the new legislation.*

32                                    **D. Invasive Species Eradication**

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

34 Commissioner Saunders distributed the invasive species update report to the Commission. She  
35 said the bridge site was done again noting that 80% of that cleared area is vegetated again  
36 with native plants. She feels the invasive plants will not need to be eradicated until September.  
37 She said the knotweed near the entranceway and the Trees of Heaven need to be treated.  
38 Commissioner Saunders said two more passes for wild garlic mustard were made on the  
39 floodplain; the south section of the Green Trail was eradicated two times and the area between

1 the Red and Green Trail, the Interpretive Trail, the edges, were also eradicated for invasive  
2 species. She said the Red Trail south from the bridge parking area west, to the Yellow-Red Loop  
3 up to glacial outcrop was also eradicated. She said on the roadsides of Tyler Mill Road north  
4 section and Tamarac Swamp Road, eradication is ongoing – primarily for garlic mustard. She  
5 said one area of significant garlic mustard remains along the roadside edges of Fields 11 A&B –  
6 and will be pulled in June. She said a training session took place June 4 for the Stewards of  
7 Tyler Mill who learned how to identify invasive plant species.

8 2. Tyler Mill Preserve main entranceway – Taken up above.

9 3. Trees of Heaven – Taken up above.

10 4. Purple Loosestrife

11 Acting Chair Heffernon said she is working on introducing beetles to eradicate the invasive  
12 plants, Purple Loosestrife, on the Tilcon-Tomasso property and on the path off Wharton Brook  
13 Drive.

### 14 **3. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

#### 15 **A. One-year lease recommendation to Town Council**

16 Ms. O'Hare said on May 14, the Town Council approved the one-year lease extension for 22  
17 Farmland properties which include the hayfields and Field 5A. She said moving forward, work  
18 must be done on the proposals for Fields 5A and 7A.

#### 19 **B. Farmland Lease Cycle – 2013-2017**

20 1. Bid proposal for 21 hayfields – status

21 Ms. O'Hare said Chairman Borne requested a copy of the 2014-2018 Draft bid proposal because  
22 he is in charge of editing the proposal at this point. She said Mayor Dickinson is committed to  
23 getting these bid proposals out by September. She said moving forward, work must be done  
24 on the proposals for Fields 5A and 7A for the bid. Commissioner Saunders requested that a  
25 meeting still needs to take place between several parties to review the final bid document.

26 2. Bid proposal for 2 deep zone tillage-use fields – status – Taken up above.

#### 27 **C. Farmland Committee – report**

28 Commissioner Saunders said she went out to Field 7A and found some ponding in the rill, but  
29 noted the water was clear. She showed photos to the Commission. She suggested Public Works  
30 cut along the road near Field 7A and Field 5A because the field cannot be seen from the road.

#### 31 **D. Mowing Quote**

32 Ms. O'Hare said she just sent the mowing quote to Jay Brown who also mows Beseck Meadow.  
33 She said he has not responded as of yet.

### 34 **4. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

#### 35 **A. Forest edge habitat, D. Saunders**

1 Commissioner Saunders said the Audubon Society should be involved in selecting the proposed  
2 forest edge habitat site. She said there are 10 listed species of birds consistently in the Tyler  
3 Mill Preserve area. She said she sent a map to the Audubon Society and suggested looking at  
4 the proposed sites and select a site that is not a sensitive habitat. She recommended a  
5 subcommittee be formed to include biologists to explore site selection. Deer control would be  
6 critical to this program's success. Commissioner Saunders suggested having a public  
7 information session at the Library in the Fall to discuss this topic.

8 **B. Parks & Recreation Summer Guide**

9 Acting Chair Heffernon said the Guide booklet mentions Tyler Mill Preserve and Ferguson Woods  
10 as hiking areas.

11 **5. PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

12 **A. Property reviewed previously**

13 Ms. O'Hare spoke about "Acres for America" land acquisition program. The importance of  
14 ongoing promotion of the Town's interest in acquiring private land was discussed.

15 **6. GROUP FACILITATION – Not taken up**

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

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

18 Commissioner Saunders noted the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) is due  
19 to be revised, agricultural issues are required to be addressed in it, and she would like Ms.  
20 O'Hare to report back on the status of the POCD from the Town Planner as it is important in  
21 relation to timing of the revision to the Open Space Plan. *Ms O'Hare will do.*

22 **8. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

23 **A. Dog Park proposal – discussion of alternate locations**

24 Commissioner Lendler questioned the agenda item. Ms. O'Hare said Parks & Recreation Director  
25 John Gawlak has asked the Commission to review possible sites for the proposed dog park.  
26 Acting-Chair Heffernon said the Dog Park Committee met recently and discussed the Garden  
27 Road site and site selection has run into many obstacles.

28 **B. Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies – update**

29 Ms. O'Hare said the Yale University student is using Field 6C, 1B, 7A, 4C, 4D and Fresh  
30 Meadows. Ms. O'Hare said the student observes pollinators and the difference in numbers and  
31 behaviors close to residential areas in comparison to agriculture and the woods. Ms. O'Hare said  
32 the student will give a report at the end of September. Commissioner Saunders gave the  
33 student a sign for her car for when she is parked on Town property.

34 **C. QRWA Stream buffer & Nonpoint Source Pollution Training Session for Public**  
35 **Works Dept., May 17 - report**

36 Ms. O'Hare passed around her Environmental Planner's Report dated May 22, 2013 on the  
37 program sponsored by QRWA. She and Acting Chair Heffernon said representatives from the

1 Public Works, NRCS, the DEEP CT Watershed Program and QRWA attended. She said the  
2 discussion centered on the importance of buffers for water quality and getting the public's  
3 consciousness raised about them. Nonpoint source pollution, roof water recharge and the  
4 public's opinion on manicured areas were also discussed. Establishing a model buffer area in  
5 town with fencing and signage a bench, etc., is a good approach.

6 **D. Sleeping Giant State Park** – correspondence re: invasives – staff

7 Ms. O'Hare said she responded to the correspondence to regarding the invasives issue on  
8 Mansion Road near the Park, as requested.

9 **E. Letter from Barbara Lathrop to Commission re: community garden**

10 Commissioner Lathrop said a copy of the letter from Barbara Lathrop, his wife, was sent to the  
11 Town Council, the Mayor, the Conservation Commission and the Recreation Commission. He  
12 said a few Town Council members replied. Commissioner Lathrop said the letter was responding  
13 to the possible parking expansion at the Park which she fears may result in the elimination of  
14 the Community Gardens area which she is against.

15 Commissioner Saunders handed in her Steward of Tyler Mill Report for May and the QRWA bio-  
16 assessment report for the Muddy River and Wharton Brook which she participated into Ms.  
17 O'Hare.

18 **9. NEXT MEETING – July 11, 2013**

19 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

20 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Pyskaty second by Commissioner Lathrop to**  
21 **adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

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23 Respectfully submitted,

24 Cynthia A. Kleist

25 Recording Secretary

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