

1 WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2 REGULAR MEETING
3 Thursday, June 14, 2012
4 7 p.m.
5 Town Hall Basement Conference Room
6 45 South Main Street
7 Wallingford, CT

8
9 **MINUTES**
10

11
12 **PRESENT:** Chairman Jeffrey Borne; Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Tom
13 Pietras; Dianne Saunders; Dianne Lendler; Ken Ryan; Jim Psykaty; Carl Arsenault; John
14 Lathrop; Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner.
15

16
17 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

18 **A. Minutes, May 10, 2012**
19

20 Commissioner Saunders said on page 3 under 2A "DEP Grant Work Progress" should be
21 "reported on" not "distributed."

22 On page 4, item 4, second paragraph, should read "marked six of those and seven
23 birches and if they were treated in time, we would cut six."

24 Page 5, line 22 should read "marked" not "mark."

25 On page 5, line 28; insert "on bluebird boxes at Cheshire Road" after the words "Magic
26 Halos."

27 Page 6, line 13 should read follow up on "having the contractor" not "retaining a
28 contractor."

29 On page 6, 27, should be "unverified report."

30 On page 6, line 45-48, include the "Cub Scout (Wolf Pack 28) footbridge and the nice
31 job they did."

32 On page 7, line 15 add Mark's last name: "Ceneri."

33 On page 7, line 46 should include "Ms. O'Hare will send a copy to the Farmland Lease
34 Committee."

35 On page 8, line 6, replace "in this area" with "along the edge of Northford Rd. since the
36 road is in the capital improvement plan anyway."

37 On page 3, Commissioner Ryan said line 7 should read "Commissioners Ryan, Arsenault
38 and Lathrop".
39

40 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Lathrop**
41 **to approve the Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2012 as amended. The motion**
42 **passed unanimously.**

43 The Chairman elected to take agenda items in the following order:
44

45 **3. PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

46 **A. Property referral – report – Eastside.**
47

1 Commissioners Ryan, Lathrop, and Arsenault (the Search Committee), walked the parcel
2 located on the eastside of Town. Commissioner Ryan said there were problems with the
3 property which included power lines on half of the property, a gas line, and an AT&T
4 easement. Commissioner Ryan suggested sending a note to Mayor Dickinson stating the
5 property was walked by the three Commissioners and there is no access since most of
6 the property is under power lines.

7 *Chairman Borne asked the Search Committee to put together notes on the walk through*
8 *and send him a copy.*

10 **B. Other property referral - report**

11 Chairman Borne said he and Vice-Chair Heffernon and Commissioner Lathrop walked
12 this property located in the southern part of Town on Monday. He said there was a lot of
13 nice open space, vernal pools and wildlife. He said a walking trail could be constructed
14 on the property. The Mayor was interested in the property based on the Commission's
15 previous report. He said that report, should be augmented on how this property and
16 abutting properties might be used for open space. He said there should be a
17 recommendation that the Town pursue purchasing this property.

18
19 Commissioner Lathrop said this particular piece of property would require very little
20 maintenance. He noted the deadline to get the information submitted for State funding
21 needs to be done before June 28.

22
23 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Pyskaty second by Vice-Chair Heffernon**
24 **to expand the previous report to recommend pursuit of the properties. The**
25 **motion passed unanimously.**

26
27 *Chairman Borne will complete the report and forward to the Mayor.*

28 Commissioner Saunders noted that, going forward, it will not be as easy to maintain this
29 property when people start using the land.

31 **7. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

32 **A. Ordinance re: removal of material and other unpermitted activities on Town**
33 **property – status.**

34
35 Commissioner Saunders reported that two people had dug down the length of the
36 ballfields and were using metal detectors at Vietnam Veteran's Park. She said she had
37 contacted John Gawlak, Parks and Recreation Director, by phone who told the two
38 people to leave. Commissioner Saunders said people have also been digging up rocks,
39 taking plants and cutting down trees in various parks across Town.

40
41 Commissioner Borne said he came across an ordinance in Middletown regarding illegal
42 digging and scavenging with metal detectors and sent along this information Mr. Gawlak
43 who forwarded it to the Law Department who is working on drafting an ordinance the
44 police can enforce.

1 **B. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

2 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

- 3
- 4 1. Ravine restoration (west of 7A) - Nothing to report.
 - 5 2. DEP Recreational Trails Grant Program
 - 6 a. Work Progress – report, Trails Committee
 - 7 b. Additional contract work (Part A & Part B) – approval.
 - 8

9 Vice-Chair Heffernon said the Trails Committee received a quote of \$8,205 from Ferrucci
10 & Walicki to finish up the trails to-do list. She said the only thing missing was the quote
11 to complete the final signage quote for the Red Trail which brought the total to \$9,195.

12
13 Ms. O'Hare said the State grant portion is \$48,000; the local match is \$12,000, which is
14 sitting in the Open Space Resources Management Fund (OSRMF).

15
16 Funds will come from the match monies and from the other funds in the OSRMF.

17
18 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner**
19 **Arsenault to approve the spending of \$9,195 to finish trail work and to**
20 **complete the additional trail improvement work as quoted by Ferrucci &**
21 **Walicki. The motion passed unanimously.**

22
23 *Ms. O'Hare will process the necessary paperwork.*

24
25 Commissioner Saunders suggested for the next expenditure, monies be set aside for
26 materials to construct a boardwalk and blaze the trail that was originally proposed
27 through the Woodhouse Avenue soccer fields out to the old section of Tyler Mill Road
28 which she termed the Gold Trail.

29
30 She said the volunteers are willing to do this. She said many daytime hikers hike
31 through there and they do not want to walk through the mud.

32 *Vice-Chair Heffernon will review this suggestion.*

- 33
- 34 c. Parking lots, entranceway and kiosks – status
 - 35

36 Ms. O'Hare said she, Vice-Chair Heffernon, Sgt. Joseph Cafasso, Community Police
37 Officer; Doe Roe, Program Planner; Henry McCully, Public Works; John Gawlak, Park &
38 Recreation Director; Vinnie Mascia of the Water Division; Rob Baltramaitis, Assistant
39 Town Engineer, and Mayor Dickinson met to discuss improvements to five entranceways
40 to Tyler Mill. She said Mr. McCully is willing to do the work, but it would not commence
41 until late Fall or Winter.

42 Ms. O'Hare showed photographs of the five entranceway concept plans for each existing
43 and proposed signage. and of the signage. She said grass would be planted in the Water
44 Division easement area in stead of plantings and trees at the Division's request for
45 maintenance reasons. Ms. O'Hare said Mr. Baltramaitis will look into obtaining wooden
46 guardrails for Mr. McCully to install around the entranceways, but she added the Water
47 Division insisted on installing boulders to line their easement area rather than guardrails
48 here.

49

1 She said the main sign for the Preserve would be free-standing by the road. She said
2 the Mayor requested the Commission approve the official name for the park as "Muddy
3 River Preserve" and then the Town Council will consider it. The consensus of the
4 Commission was that it did not like the change from Tyler Mill Preserve to Muddy River
5 Preserve. Commissioner Lendler said the Tyler Mill Preserve name has been in existence
6 since 1727 and it is a preserve. All the trail signs recently installed indicate "Tyler Mill
7 Preserve."
8

9 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lendler second by Commissioner**
10 **Saunders to suggest a separate letter from the Conservation Commission**
11 **which states factually the history of the Tyler Mill Preserve name. The letter**
12 **will be sent to Mayor Dickinson's office. The motion passed unanimously.**
13

14 *Commissioner Lendler will draft the letter for the Commission to review.*
15

16 Ms. O'Hare also passed around proposed wording changes regarding signage for the
17 kiosks.
18

19 The Commission also discussed the proposed location of kiosks at the main entrance
20 and at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park, Tamarac Swamp Road and Maltby Lane
21 entrances.
22

23 The Mayor does not want the current Woodhouse Avenue/East Dayton Hill Road/Tyler
24 Mill Road entrance to be expanded for additional parking for traffic safety reasons.
25 There will be no kiosk here. A sign will be installed on the existing fence that parking is
26 available at the main entrance, at Tyler Mill bridge area, at VVMP, and at Maltby Lane.
27 Commissioner Lendler would like to see a kiosk installed at the (easterly) soccer field
28 directing people to enter the Preserve via the (proposed) Gold Trail.
29

30 3. Chainsaw training session, May 20 – report.
31

32 Commissioner Saunders said nine people attended including two observers from the
33 Stewards, including Commissioner Arsenault who also observed, and the instructor. She
34 said the certificates of completion will be sent to the Mayor's office and that tags were
35 left on the felled trees.
36

37 4. Tree down above Tyler Mill dam cribbing - status

38 Ms. O'Hare said she must now get two new quotes as the original quote which she
39 processed was rejected as not contracted rates and so the tree has not yet been
40 removed.
41

42 **B. Fresh Meadow Swamp At Cheshire Road**

43 1. DEEP Recreational Trail Grant application – Nothing to report.

44 2. Improvements - status

45 Ms. O'Hare said the firm Ed the Treeman, felled the trees around the rock and firm, All
46 Habitat Services spot - sprayed the seven acres of invasive plants which went from

1 Schoolhouse Road toward the glacier erratic boulder area, up to the parking lot and
2 towards Tessa's Trail. These will be cut later. Commissioner Ryan said there is poison
3 ivy which runs from Schoolhouse Road to the Cuneo property. *Ms. O'Hare will check into*
4 *if poison ivy in this area has been sprayed.*

5
6 **C. Beseck Mountain**

7
8 1. Wisk-Key Wind Rd. – trespass issue

9 Ms. O'Hare said she sent a memo to Mr. McCully about the guardrail and the fence, as
10 requested.

11
12 2. CFPA unpermitted trail information

13
14 Wayne Fogg of Connecticut Forest & Park Association had put together detailed
15 information of all the unpermitted trails and erosion areas and cataloged this
16 information. Ms. O' Hare asked the Commission what action to take in this regard.
17 Commissioner Ryan suggested the Trails Committee review this information.
18 *The Trails Committee will do so.*

19
20 **C. Ferguson Woods – driveway issue.**

21
22 Ms. O'Hare said Mr. McCully installed concrete barriers to block off the driveway
23 entrance to the open space off North Branford Road upon request of the adjacent
24 homeowner after an incident.

25
26 **E. Invasive Species Eradication**

27
28 1. Long-term invasive species management program – update,
29 D. Saunders.

30
31 Commissioner Saunders said Dr. Todd Mervosh of the Connecticut Agricultural
32 Experiment Station came out and went over our plan with us. She said Dr. Mervosh
33 came up with two recommendations: the eradication of the bittersweet behind the dam
34 - which was treated by Ferrucci & Walicki - should be cut now in summer so it can
35 regrow by fall and be re-treated, and to spot treat the knotweed along the main
36 entrance to Tyler Mill and on the two islands one more year. Gout weed and lesser
37 celandine are recent invasive plants of concern.

38
39 **F. Volunteer Work Program – report, K. Ryan**

40
41 1. Eagle Scout project

42
43 Commissioner Ryan said Eagle Scout John Cerrotti has gotten permission from his Scout
44 Troop to take on the fencing of the vernal pool and will put together detailed plans.

45
46 **4. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

47
48 **A. Environmental Literacy Initiative – report, M. Heffernon.**

1 Vice-Chair Heffernon said six people participated in the Library's wetlands hike last week
2 let by Commissioner Peitras and the tree hike with Commissioner Arsenault will take
3 place this Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Marcus Cooke Park. The Sky Watch program will
4 take place on June 26th at Choate School at 7:30 p.m. although the time may be
5 changed.

6
7 **B. CT Trails Day Tyler Mill Preserve Hike – June 2 – report, M.**
8 Heffernon
9

10 Vice-Chair Heffernon said Trails Day this past Saturday was rained out and postponed to
11 the next day, Sunday. She said 16 showed up and hiked the Interpretive Trail.
12 Chairman Borne said he led a hike in Middletown in which three people attended. He
13 said a new Steward from CFPA is assigned to the Blue Blazed Trail.

14
15 **5. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

16
17 **A. Farmland Lease Cycle – 2013-2017 – status – Nothing new.**

18 **B. Field 18A – Environmental Review Report – Nothing new.**

19 **C. Farmland Committee – report – Nothing new.**

20 **D. Field 7A – erosion control plan & proposed use, etc. – Nothing new.**

21
22 **6. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE – Not taken up.**

23
24 **7. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

25
26 **C. USDA Citizen Volunteer Forest Pest Survey**

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28 Ms. O'Hare said the USDA Plant Health Safeguarding Specialist is looking for volunteers
29 from the Commission to take part in participating in the Asian Longhorn Beetle and
30 Emerald Ash Borer Beetle USDA Forest Pest Survey.

31
32 **8. NEXT MEETING – July 12, 2012**

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34 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

35
36 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Pyskaty**
37 **to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

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39
40 Respectfully submitted,
41 Cynthia A. Kleist
42 Recording Secretary
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