

1 WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

2 REGULAR MEETING

3 Thursday, July 10, 2014

4 7:00 P.M.

5 Town Hall Basement Conference Room

6 45 South Main Street

7 Wallingford, Connecticut

8 **MINUTES**

9 **PRESENT:** Chair Mary Heffernon; Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Commissioners Ken Ryan; Carl
10 Arsenault; Tom Pietras, Dianne Saunders; Erin O'Hare, Environmental and Natural Resources
11 Planner; Mark Bernick, Eagle Scout Candidate; John Bernick, Eagle Scout Candidate's father;
12 Emily Picard, professor, Lyman Hall Vo-Ag Dept.

13 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioners Jeff Borne, Dianne Lendler and Jim Pyskaty.

14 **1. Potential Eagle Scout project, Mark Bernick**

15 Mark Benick, potential Eagle Scout candidate gave an update regarding his Eagle Scout project
16 to construct five kestral boxes on poles including an informational kiosk at the entrance to
17 Farnham Field, and four kestrel boxes on poles at the Land Trust field. Mark said he had spoken
18 with Tom Sayers, bird photographer, who informed him the kestrel boxes need to be checked
19 weekly which he said he would be doing for the remainder of his tenure at Lyman Hall High
20 School, (he is a junior). Mark said he looked into the spacing of the boxes which must be a ½
21 mile apart from each other, so he is considering installing four to six kestrel boxes. Mark also
22 spoke about an endangered animal survey which could affect his project because his surveyed
23 area where the kestrel boxes would be installed partially runs into a field with bobolinks which
24 are endangered.

25 Emily Picard, professor at the Lyman Hall VoAg Dept., said Mark's project was a good
26 opportunity for other students to get involved.

27 The Commission reached a consensus in favor of this project.

28 **2. VoAg community projects proposal, Emily Picard, professor**

29 Emily Picard, VoAg professor at Lyman Hall High School, spoke about the VoAg community
30 project proposal using resources in Town. She said she is planning on doing a natural resource

1 inventory and wants to work with the Conservation Commission and other organizations in
2 Town.

3 Chair Heffernon brought up the idea of the VoAg students raising beetles to eat the Purple
4 Loosestrife, an invasive plant. Commissioner Saunders said she could use the students to look
5 for invasives in July and August especially in a certain Muddy River floodplain area. Ms. O'Hare
6 suggested the students could inventory Ferguson Woods which is 62 acres.

7 **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

8 **A. Minutes**, Regular Meeting, June 12, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

9 On page 5, Item 3E-1, should read "repeat clearing of garlic mustard on road side edges."

10 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Lathrop second by Commissioner Ryan to approve**
11 **the June 12, 2014 WCC Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed**
12 **unanimously.**

13 **B. Special Meeting Minutes**, June 27, 2014, 4:30 p.m.

14 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Arsenault second by Commissioner Pietras to**
15 **approve the June 27, 2014 WCC Special Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion**
16 **passed unanimously.**

17 **C. Special Meeting Minutes**, July 9, 2014 – **Tabled.**

18

19 **4. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

20 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

21 1. Remaining planned improvements – report, staff

22 Ms. O'Hare said a contractor is scheduled to install the wooden guardrails and the horse trailer
23 pull-off needs to be smoothed out and handicapped signage still needs to be installed.

24 Chair Heffernon said "New England Sign Carvers" will carve Lilac Trail sign for \$240. The
25 Commission will paint the sign.

26 *Ms. O'Hare will check and look into 2 other bids for the Lilac Trail signage.*

27 *Chair Heffernon will get Ms. O'Hare photos and dimensions for the signage.*

28 Ms. O'Hare noted that the fence at the East Dayton Hill Road – Woodhouse Avenue entrance to
29 Tyler Mill have been repaired. The entrance signs on the Maltby Lane gate had been taken
30 down when the gate was enlarged.

31 *She said she will ask Public Works to install the signs inside the gate on a post.*

1 2. Deer population – thinning – report

2 Chair Heffernon said Peter Picone, Rob Rocks and Howard Kilpatrick from CT DEEP met at the
3 Special Meeting the Commission held on July 9 at Tyler Mill Preserve to discuss the deer
4 population. She forwarded them Forestry Inventory and maps. She said she is waiting to hear
5 back from them.

6 3. Gold Trail – planned improvements – update, D. Saunders

7 *Commissioner Saunders will approach Choate again in the fall regarding this project.*

8 4. Stewards of Tyler Mill – Les Merhoff Biodiversity Grant project – update, D.
9 Saunders

10 Commissioner Saunders said Anthony Zemba met with herself and several Stewards, walked
11 both sites and gave the Stewards a list of plants. She added that the Stewards received two
12 offers for a water pump and are looking for a way to provide electricity to the pump. She said
13 Bryan Saulis rigged up a generator to possibly pump the water from the river and will test it this
14 Saturday. She said the plants should be put into the ground by the end of August and will be
15 located at the bridge site and the entrance to Tyler Mill Preserve at the edges, after the
16 knotweed is sprayed. Commissioner Saunders said clay balls will be planted in between the rip-
17 rap and added the deadline for the grant is March 2015. Commissioner Saunders would like to
18 pursue a grant to correct drainage issues in Tyler Mill Preserve.

19 5. Maltby Lane Road (closed portion) – drainage issue

20 Ms. O'Hare said there was no update. Commissioner Saunders gave Ms. O'Hare a photo of the
21 berm installed by Public Works recently which is eroding onto the trail. *Ms. O'Hare will follow-*
22 *up.*

23 6. Emergency trail markers

24 Chair Heffernon said the numbered signage came in and the Purple Trail and Green Trail which
25 were posted with markers by the Trails Committee. She said the south of the Red Trail will be
26 completed by Sunday. She said the signage was installed every 600 ft.

27 *Chair Heffernon will bring the maps to the Engineering Department when the signage*
28 *installation is completed so the signage can be included on the trail maps.*

29 *Commissioner Saunders will order three Trails System maps and inquire about coating the maps*
30 *in vinyl. She will also put emergency marker informational notices in the kiosks, as requested.*

31 *Commissioner Arsenaault will check on the Sleeping Giant maps.*

32 **B. Fresh Meadows**

1 1. Trails Program – status

2 Ms. O'Hare said the contract with Lenard Engineering has not been completed only because it
3 was put on hold when the Town grant was not awarded.

4 2. Eagle Scout project- update

5 Chair Heffernon said the project is mostly completed; two picnic tables have been finished.
6 Commissioner Arsenault noted white oak was used to construct the picnic tables. Chair
7 Heffernon said Zachary Blum, Eagle Scout Candidate, will construct a kiosk at the completion of
8 this project.

9 3. Memorial tree – report, M. Heffernon

10 Chair Heffernon said the memorial red oak tree was delivered and Commissioner Arsenault
11 planted it at the entryway to the parking area at Fresh Meadows. Chair Heffernon said she put
12 down mulch and stakes with flags around the tree. She said she also purchased a tree gator
13 bag to water the tree and deer spray on advice from Ferrucci & Walicki. Chair Heffernon said
14 she sent photos of Commissioner Arsenault planting the tree to the donor along with ideas for a
15 plaque.

16 **C. 1250 Whirlwind Hill Road – mowing**

17 Commissioner Arsenault gave Ms. O'Hare a copy of a quote obtained from a contractor for
18 mowing. He said the quote indicating mowing would take place after October and be completed
19 by mid-April for Fields 6C, 7A, 1B, 4C and Fresh Meadows.

20 *Ms. O'Hare will obtain bids from two other sources.*

21 **D. Beseck Meadow – report, M. Heffernon**

22 Chair Heffernon said she and Commissioner Arsenault went to the site after obtaining
23 information that the resident had bulldozed the bamboo which was encroaching on Town
24 property. Chair Heffernon said she and Commissioner Arsenault observed bamboo sprouts
25 coming out of the ground on the residents' side of the property. She said part of the ground
26 had been covered with black plastic and one part had been left uncovered. Based on this
27 observation, Commissioner Arsenault believed the bamboo may have been cut not bulldozed.
28 Chair Heffernon said she sent Public Works Director Henry McCully and article on bamboo and a
29 copy of the recent legislation and requested the area be cut and sprayed once more.

30 *Ms. O'Hare will contact Public Works requesting this area be cut and sprayed again.*

31 Commissioner Arsenault indicated Jay Brown, mowing Contractor, is interested in haying Beseck
32 Meadow. The consensus of the Commission was that the property should be for habitat.

1 **E. Volunteer projects**

2 Commissioner Saunders said three Boy Scout Troops completed the construct of three
3 footbridges.

4 **F. Invasive Species Eradication**

5 Commissioner Saunders distributed her report to the Commission dated July 10, 2014, for the
6 month of June. She said the priority for June, July is the newly discovered species, cardamine
7 impatiens. She said the areas worked on to eradicate the garlic mustard over the past two
8 years look good and native species have filled in nicely; She said the goutweed, as reported to
9 Ms. O'Hare, needs to be chemically treated now before it blooms. She added there have been
10 no additional sightings of ranunculus ficaria-one plant found in June.

11 Commissioner Saunders noted that Ms. O'Hare has arranged for her to accompany All-Habitat
12 when they treat the knotweed, Trees of Heaven and Aegopodium.

13 Chair Heffernon noted that she and Commissioner Arsenault went over to Dibble Edge Road to
14 observe an access driveway which runs on the Town line. She said there were four dirt piles
15 deposited to the Town line, along with rocks and tree roots, which were also deposited on the
16 Town line. She showed photos of the dirt piles to the Commission.

17 *Ms O'Hare will speak to Corporation Counsel Janis Small regarding this encroachment issue.*

18 2. Contracted work (Tyler Mill entranceway area & Trees of heaven) –Taken up above.

19 **5. PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

20 **A. Property owner outreach – discussion**

21 Chair Heffernon said she is working on the flyers and will have them ready by the August WCC
22 Meeting.

23 **6.FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

24 **A. Proposed bid – Field 5A and Field 7A - approval**

25 Commissioner Saunders submitted theCOMmittee's completed bid document. On Field 5A and
26 along the road edge the farmer's buffer is 15 feet. She said Public Works will mow the first five
27 feet and the farmer will mow from inside the field, as proposed. Ther changes from the June 27
28 site walk were incorporated.

29 Commissioner Pietras said Field 7A can go three ways: pasture, hayfield or deep zone tillage.

30 Commissioner Saunder said three bidders are interested in Field 7A which is 17 acres.

31 Commissioner Pietras suggested Public Works widen the access area to Field 7A subject to road

1 improvements. The proposal is to leave a woody buffer and fence in the area with a lock after
2 the Commission awards the lease.

3 Commissioners Saunders and Pietras went over changes in their recommendations for the
4 leases for Fields 5A and 7A regarding lease maintenance. The proposed target date is Sept. 15
5 for the award of the leases.

6 *Commissioners Pietras and Saunders will hand draw the maps and submit to Ms. O'Hare for*
7 *review.*

8 *Chair Heffernon requested Ms.O'Hare comment on the submittal by the end of day Monday.*

9 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Lathrop second by Commissioner Pietras that any**
10 **changes to the leases be made by the end of the day on Monday. A flash drive of the**
11 **lease documents will be given to the Law Department by Wednesday. The motion**
12 **passed unanimously.**

13 *Chair Heffernon will follow through on these steps.*

14 **B. Farmland Committee**

15 Committee proposal discussed above under "A".

16 **C. Property issues**

- 17 1. Field 3A – encroachment; recent trespass damage – nothing to report
18 2. Field 2A – fence & signage; recent trespass damage – nothing to report
19 3. Field 7H – gate

20 Ms. O'Hare said Parks & Recreation put up the new gate.

21 **7. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

- 22 **A. Fall program** – Nothing to report
23 **B. Celebrate Open Space event** – Nothing to report

24
25 **8. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE**

- 26 **A. Discussion regarding goals** – Not discussed

27 **9. OTHER TOPICS** – Not discussed

28 **10. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

- 29 **A. Department of Energy & Environmental Protection** – Notice of
30 Tentative Determination to Approve an Application for 401 Water Quality
31 Certification for the Town of Wallingford re: Phase 3 of the Quinnipiac River
32 Linear Trail – construction of trail, dated 6/23/14; received 6/26/14

1 Ms. O'Hare said this project is moving along.

2 **B. Canoe launch accesses** – at Community Lake and Fireworks Island –
3 report

4 Ms. O'Hare said the canoe launch accesses have been constructed.

5 **C. Other correspondence**

6

7 **11. NEXT MEETING – August 14, 2014**

8

9 **12. ADJOURNMENT**

10 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Pietras second by Commissioner Saunders to**
11 **adjourn the Meeting at 10:04 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

12

13 Respectfully submitted,

14 Cynthia A. Kleist

15 Recording Secretary

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