

1 WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
2 REGULAR MEETING  
3 Thursday, July 12, 2012  
4 7 p.m.  
5 Town Hall Basement Conference Room  
6 45 South Main Street  
7 Wallingford, CT  
8  
9

10 **MINUTES**

11  
12 **PRESENT:** Chairman Jeffrey Borne; Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne  
13 Saunders; Dianne Lendler; Ken Ryan; Tom Pietras; Erin O'Hare, Environmental and  
14 Natural Resources Planner.

15  
16 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioners John Lathrop, Carl Arsenault, and Jim Pyskaty.

17  
18 Chairman Borne called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

19  
20 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

21 **A. Minutes, June 14, 2012.**

22  
23 On page 5, line 33, Commissioner Saunders said bittersweet and multiflora rose are  
24 "near the bridge" not "behind the dam."

25  
26 On page 4, line 9 on the Motion should read "the letter will be sent stating the  
27 "majority" was to leave the name and then add the history."

28  
29 On page 2 under "Property" line 11, Vice-Chair Heffernon said "Commissioners Pyskaty  
30 and Arsenault also walked the property.

31  
32 On page 6, with the Wetlands Hike, 16 people attended not six.

33  
34 Vice-Chair Heffernon said the Skywatch Program was at 7:30 p.m. not 8:30 pm. and  
35 noted the Nature Corner at the Library had constantly changing Nature Exhibits.

36  
37 On page 2, top first paragraph, Commissioner Ryan noted the Property Report, line 3,  
38 "a gas line" should be stricken from the Minutes and should read "was walked by the  
39 three Commissioners and because of the limited access and since most of the property  
40 is under the power lines the Commission did not feel it would be a desirable acquisition."

41  
42 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Ryan second by Commissioner Lendler**  
43 **to approve the Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2012 as amended. The motion**  
44 **passed unanimously.**

45  
46 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

47 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

- 48 1. Ravine Restoration (west of Field 7A).

1 Ms. O'Hare said as the ravine area is not in the DEEP grant area it has been determined  
2 that the work cannot be given to Ferrucci & Walicki as the Purchasing Department  
3 put a limit on how much work Ferrucci & Walicki can do.  
4 Commissioner Saunders suggested having the Stewards do some of the work in the  
5 Winter.

6  
7 **Chairman Borne took the agenda in the following order.**

8  
9 **FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

10  
11 **5. D. Field 7A - erosion control plan & proposed use, etc.**

12  
13 Ms. O'Hare said the National Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS) agreed to go out  
14 and look at this field on Tuesday, July 17, at 10:30 a.m. regarding possible uses. Dianne  
15 Saunders and Tom Pietras will attend with Ms. O'Hare.

16  
17 2. DEP Recreational Trails Grant Program

18  
19 a. Work progress – report, Trails Committee.

20  
21 b. Additional contract work (Part A & Part B) – approval.

22  
23 Ms. O' Hare said at the last meeting the Commission approved certain additional work  
24 for approximately \$9,100. She said about two-thirds of the work was from Part A (DEP  
25 grant area) and one-third from Part B (the Pink Trail).

26  
27 She said this project had been previously re-quoted because it had been found to be  
28 quoted incorrectly the first time and the Purchasing Department rejected it. The  
29 Purchasing Department rejected the recent purchase order as well but did concede to an  
30 open-order for Ferrucci & Walicki to do approximately \$6,500 of work under Part A  
31 under the DEP Grant program.

32  
33 She said the Part B work, (the Pink Trail), was rejected altogether by the Purchasing  
34 Department. She said the Purchasing suggested the Town issue a three-year forestry  
35 services contract which could be put out to bid.

36  
37 Ms. O'Hare suggested the volunteers could accomplish some of the work in the  
38 meantime.

39  
40 c. Parking lots, entranceway and kiosks – status.

41  
42  
43 Ms. O'Hare said a memo went out regarding the departmental field trip meeting looking  
44 at the five entranceways at Tyler Mill Preserve. She said the consensus of the meeting  
45 was that we have until late Fall to get the maps and planting plans together.

46  
47 She said Public Works will get a quote on the kiosks and if the bids are low enough, an  
48 outside party can construct the kiosks otherwise Public Works will construct the kiosks

1 in-shop. Ms. O'Hare said there will be three additional kiosks constructed besides the  
2 one kiosk which has already been constructed.

3  
4 Ms. O'Hare passed around photos of the Town's new signage series for parks.  
5 Chairman Borne spoke about the naming of the Tyler Mill-Muddy River area. He said  
6 Commissioner Lendler wrote a letter documenting why the Commission believed the  
7 Muddy River area should remained as "Tyler Mill Preserve" and not be changed to  
8 "Muddy River Preserve".

9  
10 Chairman Borne said he contacted Mayor Dickinson who plans on attending the August  
11 9 Conservation Commission meeting to discuss this matter.

12  
13 *Chairman Borne will e-mail Commissioner Landler's letter to the Commission members*  
14 *for review for the August meeting.*

- 15  
16 3. Tree down above Tyler Mill dam cribbing – status.

17  
18  
19 Ms. O'Hare said the previously approved quote was sent to Purchasing which sent it  
20 back stating it was not at the contracted rate. Ms. O'Hare said she took two other  
21 contractors out and Wallingford Tree Service came in with the lowest bid at \$1,680  
22 which includes removal of tree parts. The Commission affirmed the new quote.

23 *Ms. O'Hare will process it.*

24  
25 **B. Fresh Meadow Swamp at Cheshire Road**

- 26  
27 1. DEEP Recreational Trail Grant application – status – Nothing to  
28 report.  
29  
30 2. Improvements – status.

31  
32 Ms. O'Hare said the erratic boulders were cleaned off the trees by Ed the Treeman and  
33 the contractor All Habitat went out and cleaned up the vines and saplings around the  
34 boulders and performed requested eradication.

35  
36 She said next Tuesday she has a site walk with Steve Palermo, Public Works Supervisor,  
37 review poison ivy areas and cottonwood growth in the field.

38  
39 Ms. O'Hare discussed the idea of Public Works blading off (bulldozing) the eight-foot  
40 cottonwoods and planting seed.

41  
42 Commissioner Pietras suggested brush hogging and continued mowing. He suggested  
43 the Commission first come up with a mowing schedule for this area and convert some of  
44 the vegetation over.

45  
46 **C. Beseck Mountain**

- 47  
48 1. Wisk-Key Wind Rd. – trespass issue.

1 Vice-Chair Heffernon said two concrete barriers have been installed by Public Works in  
2 response to a request for guardrails to prevent ATV access.

3  
4 2. CFPA unpermitted trail information – Nothing to report.

5  
6 **D. Ferguson Woods – signage**

7  
8 Ms. O'Hare asked the Commission if signage was requested for the access to the  
9 property where the large concrete barriers were installed blocking the access (former  
10 driveway). The Commissioners agreed that no signage or blazes were to be installed.

11  
12 **E. Invasive Species Eradication**

13  
14 1. Long-term invasive species management program – update, D.  
15 Saunders.

16  
17 Commissioner Saunders spoke about her report and the recommendations of Dr. Todd  
18 Mervosh of the CT Agricultural Experimental Station from the field investigation at Tyler  
19 Mill Preserve. Two Trees of Heaven that were cut during the chainsaw training class  
20 have re-sprouted and are two-feet high and should be treated with chemicals.

21  
22 She spoke about the Mile-A-Minute weevils that work on highly invasive Mile-a-minute  
23 vine. She said they are being tried in a few places in Connecticut. She spoke about the  
24 multi-flora rose rosette disease which involves a type of mite which is devastating to  
25 multi-flora rose. Commissioner Saunders said these mites have been seen on the  
26 Eastern seaboard but as of yet in Connecticut.

27  
28 She said the Trees of Heaven if cut or shredded are dangerous to people by causing  
29 enlargement of the heart. She said Dr. Mervosh recommended Japanese knotweed be  
30 spot treated at the Northford Road/Tyler Mil Road entranceway and on the two islands  
31 in the Muddy River near here. She said the volunteers have kept them in their spot but  
32 can't kill them; they are 10-feet tall.

33  
34 Commissioner Saunders said the spot by the Tyler Mill bridge will have to be re-treated  
35 in the Fall. She recommended writing a plan for the year.

36  
37 It was agreed that the annual expenditure for eradication can target this area, the  
38 Tamarac Swamp Road, knotweeds, and the Tyler Mill bridge area.

39 *Ms. O'Hare will explore the possibility of a three-year bid for eradication services.*

40  
41 **F. Volunteer Work Program – report, K. Ryan – Nothing to report.**

42  
43 **3. PROPERTY ACQUISITION**

44  
45 **A. Property referral – report.**

46  
47 Chairman Borne said Commissioner Ryan prepared a revised report for his site analysis  
48 which was sent to Mayor Dickinson. He said the report on the other property reviewed is  
49 under consideration by the Mayor.

1  
2  
3 **4. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

4  
5 **A. Environmental Literacy Initiative – report, M. Heffernon**

6  
7 Vice-Chair Heffernon said the “Explore the Sky” program on Tuesday, June 26 at Choate  
8 Rosemary Hall upper campus attracted 102 people. She said the program also took  
9 place the following Wednesday night.

10  
11 She said the July 28 “Star Party” at Vietnam Vets Memorial Field has been canceled,  
12 and another program will try to be put in its place. She said on August 25, there will be  
13 a “Hike with the Barefoot Hiker” at Orchard Glen and a “Blue Moon Hike” on Friday,  
14 August 31 at Farnham Field.

15  
16 Commissioner Saunders talked about possibly setting another date or another venue for  
17 “Open Space Day” at Tyler Mill on Saturday, October 13, which corresponds with the  
18 beginning of hunting season.

19  
20  
21 **5. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

22  
23 **A. Farmland Lease cycle – 2013-2017 – status.**

24  
25 Commissioner Saunders said she is hoping by next Tuesday the Farmland Lease  
26 Committee will meet to create a draft report which will be given to Ms. O’Hare for her  
27 review. The final lease language will be clear on horseback access.

28  
29  
30 **B. Field 18A – Environmental Review Report - Nothing to report.**

31  
32 **C. Farmland Committee – report.**

33  
34  
35 Commissioner Saunders said she was invited to attend the Durham Agricultural  
36 Commission meeting regarding Durham’s farmland lease program. She spoke about  
37 Deerfield Farm which is a Durham property purchased with Land and Water  
38 Conservation funds. She said 60 acres is used and there is a herd of 40 Jersey cows.

39  
40 She said the farm is operated as a “Demonstration Farm”. Commissioner Saunders  
41 suggested Wallingford and Durham apply for a Farm Viability grant to prepare a joint  
42 RFP for farm leases. Ms. O’Hare indicated the idea would first need to be approved by  
43 the administration.

44 Commissioner Saunders said there was more damage to the gate for Field 7 D on  
45 Maltby Lane. She said she put locking cables around the gate to hold it together but  
46 fears the gate may soon be destroyed.

47  
48 **6. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE**

1 *Chairman Borne asked Ms. O'Hare to forward copies of the 1999 Open Space Plan to all*  
2 *Commissioners except Vice-Chair Heffernon for the Commission to begin reviewing at*  
3 *the next meeting.*

4  
5 Ms. O'Hare indicated the new 2013-2018 State Conservation Development Policy Plan  
6 (Draft) was received. Mayor Dickinson had asked if a meeting to discuss the draft was  
7 requested. *Ms. O'Hare suggested an administrative meeting should take place to get a*  
8 *sense of the impact to Wallingford.*

9  
10 **7. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

11 **8.**

- 12 **A.** Ordinance re: removal of material and other unpermitted activities on  
13 Town property – status.

14  
15 Ms. O'Hare said the Law Department told John Gawlak, Public Works Director, currently  
16 there is no digging allowed. The suggestion was our kiosks sign should say "No Digging"  
17 and not mention metal detectors or archeological finds.

18  
19 Chairman Borne said we should have an ordinance to quote if a member of the public  
20 questions this. Ms. O'Hare said the Law Department noted there is something in the  
21 books to this effect.

22  
23 Ms. O'Hare indicated it should be ascertained exactly why the Police feel they cannot  
24 enforce this ordinance as currently worded.

25  
26 *Ms. O'Hare will obtain a copy of this ordinance regarding removal of material and*  
27 *forward to Commissioners.*

- 28  
29 **B.** CACIWC membership dues.

30  
31 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Ryan to**  
32 **pay \$55 for CACIWC dues. The motion passed unanimously.**

33  
34 **9. NEXT MEETING – August 9, 2012.**

35  
36 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

37  
38 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Ryan to**  
39 **adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

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41  
42 Respectfully submitted,  
43 Cynthia A. Kleist  
44 Recording Secretary