

1 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **REGULAR MEETING**

3 **Thursday, July 13, 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 Jim Pyskaty; Dianne
9 Saunders; Mark Ceneri; Carl Arsenault; Erin O'Hare Environmental Planner; Jeff Borne; Public: Mike Miller.

10 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioners; Dianne Lendler; Tom Pietras.

11 Chair Heffernon called the Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

12 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

13 **A. Minutes, Special Meeting May 28, 9:00 a.m.**

14 **MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Ceneri second by Commissioner Pyskaty to approve the**
15 **Special Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2017 as presented.**

16 **Vote: unanimous**

17 **B. Minutes, Regular Meeting, June 8, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**

18 **MOTION: Motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner Ceneri to approve the**
19 **Regular Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2017 as presented.**

20 **Vote: unanimous**

21 Chair Heffernon took the agenda in the following order:

22 **D.Fresh Meadows –**

23 1. CT. Recreational Trails Grant Program Project- update

24 Ms. O'Hare said the Engineering Dept. is finished writing the bid specifications. She said the bid was
25 broken up into three parts on suggestion from Lenard Engineering. Ms. O'Hare said Sal Amadeo,
26 Purchasing Agent, noted the work could tentatively begin on Sept. 1, 2017 if the bid is submitted soon.
27 The Commission also advocated oversight of the trail installations.

28 Ms. O'Hare said stone dust will be used . The Commission will revisit the application of stone underlayment
29 citing concerns about washout and regrowth of weeds. *Ms. O'Hare will consult with the Assistant Town*
30 *Engineer on this issue.*

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2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

A. Tyler Mill Preserve

1. Kiosk specifications, D. Saunders

Commissioners Saunders said the work is almost completed. She said she changed the final specifications to give the kiosk more of a pitch of 10 inches on each side and to raise the kiosk up three inches.

2. Stewards of Tyler Mill – D. Saunders & D. Lendler

Commissioner Saunders went over her report. She noted several Stewards are sick. She said the trails have overgrown with the lush green because of the rains. Commissioner Saunders said the Red/Black Dot Trail was cleaned up twice in the past two months, Purple Trail twice, the Green Trail and Red Trail south once and Moss Rock twice. She said the Red North Trail will be cleaned up next.

Commissioner Saunders said she did receive an answer regarding the Raven’s nest believing the damage to the nest was done by people. Commissioner Saunders thanked Tom Grace, Steward, for his work on the trails.

3. Tyler Mill Preserve Habitat Management Planning Committee.

Commissioner Saunders said a date needs to be set for the first meeting of the Committee. Ms. O’Hare and Commissioner Saunders discussed the name of the Committee. Chair Heffernon after consulting previous Minutes, noted that Habitat was not in the original vote for the name of the Committee. The Committee will meet with Ms. O’Hare on Sept. 7, 2017 at 9 a.m. *Ms. O’Hare will forward a memo to Henry McCully, Public Works Director, along with recommended protocol for mabmoo removal from Jeff Ward, of the CT. Agricultural Experiment Station.*

B. Ferguson Woods

1. Tree vandalism report – D. Saunders

Nothing to report.

2. Weed clearing along trail

Chair Heffernon reported the weeds are heavy in the area where the former house was located. She asked Commissioner Saunders and Commissioner Arsenault to assist her in removing the weeds.

C. Beseck Meadows – bamboo management

Commissioner Saunders said last month it was decided to get a work party together. She said work should begin in early August to cut the bamboo and then apply glyphosate in the fall.

E. Lufbery Park – alteration activity remediation

Chair Heffernon said the requested alterations have not as of yet been completed.

F. Other properties - nothing

1 **3. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

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

3 Ms. O'Hare said she Commissioner Saunders, Chair Heffernon and John Gawlak, met with Mayor Dickinson
4 regarding people driving over the fields on North Branford Road, and parking at the top of the field.

5 Ms. O'Hare said Mr. Gawlak subsequently met with the President of the Rod & Gun Club to discuss this
6 R.O.W. issue and the parking.

7 **B.Proposal to use Request for Proposal for bids**

8 Ms. O'Hare said she was advised to prepare a Request for Proposal to present to the Town Council. She
9 said she and Commissioner Saunders proposed a draft RFP proposal. Sal Amadeo, Purchasing Agent, must
10 approve the document, which will also be presented to the Town Council. Ms. O'Hare said it was
11 determined that a Qualification Based Selection Process should be used instead of Request for Proposal.
12 The Commission read over the Draft Qualification Based Selection Process document distributed by Ms.
13 O'Hare and discussed ideas and revisions. *Commissioner Saunders will look over the revisions prior to it*
14 *being forwarded to Sal Amadeo.*

15 **MOTION: Motion by Vice-Chair Lathrop second by Commissioner Ceneri allowing the**
16 **Commission to recommend approval to use the Qualifications Based Selection Process**

17 **Vote: Unanimous**

18 **C. Lease revision proposals**

19 Nothing to report.

20 **D. Farmland Committee**

21 Nothing to report.

22 **4. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

23 **A. Vehicle idling**

24 Chair Heffernon read a report by the intern in the Health Department outlining various incidents of vehicle
25 idling around Wallingford. She said the average was 20 to 30 percent of people picking up school children
26 were idling their vehicles for approximately 30 minutes. Chair Heffernon said the intern found little idling
27 in the resident drop-off at the landfill. Chair Heffernon said most people don't realize there is a law against
28 vehicle idling. She said Schools Supt. Sal Menzo agreed to put up more signage at the school and agreed
29 to send out information to parents at the beginning of the year regarding the vehicle idling.

30 Chair Heffernon noted the Health Dept. will have a table at Taste of Wallingford regarding this issue and
31 spoke about showing a film "Idle Threat" at the Library regarding vehicle idling. She said she will speak
32 with the Electric Division regarding inserting a flyer in the customer bills.

33 **5. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

1 **A. CACIWC newsletter, *The Habitat*, Spring 2017.**

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

3 Chair Heffernon said the Council met Tuesday night and decided to put one question on the ballot this
4 coming November.

5 **C. “Ticks & Tick-borne Diseases”, program, Scott Williams, Ph.D., CT Ag. Experiment Station,**
6 **Guilford Free Library, Park St., June 21 – report, staff**

7 Ms. O'Hare spoke about the program regarding tick borne diseases. She went over several handouts and
8 noted the ticks are vibrant this year because of the mild winter, the wet weather; the abundance of
9 acorns, produced a record number of ticks. She noted 27 percent of the ticks in CT tested positive for
10 Lyme disease. Commissioner Borne suggested an outreach program at the Library.

11 **E. Northford Road Bridge Reconstruction Project – status report – staff**

12 Ms. O'Hare said a design is being worked on to be presented to the public.

13 **F. Eversource Energy - notice: sub-petition to CT Siting Council regarding transmission line**
14 **support structure replacement work, dated 6/29/17; received 7/10/17.**

15 Ms. O'Hare said a notice was received in the mail in the Mayor's office noting the Town has a month to
16 comment regarding the replacement of structures by Eversource throughout the corridor in Wallingford.

17 **G. Land Conservation Council – membership dues appeal.**

18 **MOTION: Borne move to pay Land Conservation Council dues second by Commissioner**
19 **Pyskaty**

20 **Vote: unanimous**

21 **H. Ken Ryan Memorial – M. Heffernon**

22 Chair Heffernon passed around a thank you note from Carol Ryan regarding the tree dedication. Chair
23 Heffernon and the Commission discussed ideas regarding the placement of the Ken Ryan boulder.

24 **6. NEXT MEETING - August 10, 2017**

25 **7. ADJOURNMENT**

26 Vice-Chair Lathrop made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Commissioner Pyskaty seconded
27 the motion which passed unanimously.

28 Respectfully submitted,

29 Cynthia A. Kleist

30 Recording Secretary