

1 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **SPECIAL MEETING**

3 **Thursday, July 27, 2016**

4 **7:00 p.m.**

5 **Basement Conference Room, Town Hall**

6 **45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT**

7 **MINUTES**

8 **PRESENT:** Chair Mary Heffernon, (arrived at 7:55 p.m.); Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Commissioners Jeff  
9 Borne; Dianne Saunders, Dianne Lendler; Carl Arsenault; Tom Pietras; Mark Ceneri; Erin O'Hare,  
10 Environmental Planner; Matthew Marek, Eagle Scout Troop 4 and Barbara Marek, Scoutmaster, Troop 4;  
11 Heidi and Katherine Orsini.

12 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioner Jim Pyskaty.

13 Vice-Chair Lathrop called the Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

14 **1. NEAL PROPERTY – report, Katherine Orsini**

15 Katharine Orsini reported on her Vo-Ag trail building project on property. She reported there was a large  
16 amount of trash on the site and asked the Commission if the rest of the trash could be removed or be left  
17 on site. She said they hauled away a lot of large trash, i.e., lattice and tires.

18 Katherine Orsini said another big branch had fallen across the bridge. Commissioner Saunders said she  
19 would go and look at the invasive plants on the path with Katharine and Heidi Orsini. Katharine asked how  
20 the trail could be blazed. Commissioner Arsenault said the blaze should be either on the trees or on a post.  
21 Ms. O'Hare asked if a proposed trail plan was created. Katharine said she walked the trail. Vice-Chair  
22 Lathrop suggested preparing a diagram of the proposed trail. Katharine said she hopes to complete the  
23 project by June 2017.

24 **2. PROPOSAL FOR EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – Matthew Marek**

25 Matthew Marek of Boy Scout Troop 4 spoke about building small library boxes, possibly two or three, with  
26 adult and children's books inside to install in local parks to promote reading. He said this would operate on  
27 a take only one (book) system. Matthew said the boxes would have waterproof cover of plexiglass, and a  
28 lid on a hinge for opening and closing.

29 He said he would do all the fundraising, construction, decoration and installation, of the boxes as part of  
30 his Eagle Scout Project and possibly a book drive and installing them in Pragemann Park, Doolittle Park,  
31 Lufberry Park, Wallace Park and possibly the dog park. He said the box would include instructions and  
32 state they were made by Troop 4 in connection with the Wallingford Public Library and the Conservation  
33 Commission.

1 Matthew said information on how to purchase or build one would also be provided. He said Chair  
2 Heffernon approached his Troop asking if they would be interested in doing an Eagle Scout project for the  
3 Commission. Commissioner Lendler said she has seen the boxes in neighborhoods in Oregon.  
4 Commissioner Ceneri expressed concern about possible vandalism. Matthew said he would monitor the  
5 boxes for a time.

6 Vice-Chair Lathrop suggested installing a library box at the Linear Trail Park. Commissioner Borne  
7 supported the project and suggested contacting Parks & Recreation Director John Gawlak to tell him of the  
8 Conservation Commission's approval of this project.

9 The Commission voted to unanimously approve this project. Matthew was directed to report back to Chair  
10 Heffernon after checking with John Gawlak.

### 11 **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### 12 **A. Minutes, Special Meeting, April 16, 2016**

13 It was noted that Commissioner Borne did not attend this meeting and Chair Heffernon was not in  
14 attendance for the second half of the meeting.

15 **Commissioner Ceneri made a motion to approve the April, 16, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes**  
16 **as amended. Commissioner Borne seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

#### 17 **B. Minutes, Regular Meeting, June 9 2016**

18 **Commissioner Lendler made a motion to accept the June 9, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as**  
19 **presented. Commissioner Saunders seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

### 20 **4. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

#### 21 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

##### 22 1. Habitat survey – status

23 Ms. O'Hare said she has not yet reviewed the habitat survey material she received from Dr. Klemens on  
24 July 18. *Ms. O'Hare will make copies of the report and distribute to the Commission as requested.*

##### 25 2. Stewards of Tyler Mill – report D. Saunders

26 Commissioner Saunders said the Stewards are going to do the numbers requested by Chair Heffernon. She  
27 said Ms. O'Hare will get the maps without the topography. She distributed the maps to the Commission.  
28 Commissioner Saunders spoke about an illegal firepit and nine-man tent which she dismantled.  
29 Commissioner Saunders said inclement weather and high heat prevented any mugwort eradication work,  
30 but noted that garlic mustard was removed from the Pink Trail.

31 Chair Heffernon arrived at this time at the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

##### 32 3. Mustard Trail – update

33 Chair Heffernon said she and Commissioner Arsenault finished painting the blazes on the Mustard Trail.

1 4. Entranceway – knotweed treatment

2 Ms. O'Hare said asked if the knotwood treatment should be done. She said treatment is needed and asked  
3 the Commission if they preferred chemical treatment. Ms. O'Hare spoke about the budget. Commissioner  
4 Saunders noted some money was set aside for knotweed treatment.

5 **Commissioner Saunders made a motion that the knotweed treatment be done in August.**  
6 **Commissioner Ceneri seconded the motion which passed with Chair Heffernon abstaining.**

7 **B. Fresh Meadows**

8 1. CT Recreational Trails Grant Award

9 Ms. O'Hare said she received notification on March 23, the Town was awarded approximately \$228,000 to  
10 construct the three ADA trails at Fresh Meadows. She said on April 7, she and Don Roe, Program Planner,  
11 attended an orientation session at Rockfall given by the State for the grant awardees. She said the State  
12 informed them the contracts would be forthcoming in two to three weeks, and its been two months. She  
13 said she, Mr. Roe, Chair Heffernon and Town Engineer Rob Baltramaitis , Joan Stave, ADA Coordinator and  
14 Mayor Dickinson, met last Wednesday to discuss the contract and how to proceed.

15 2. Selective mowing of Canada thistle and mugwort

16 Ms. O'Hare brought Canada Thistle samples from the Butterfly Meadow to show the Commission.  
17 Commissioner Saunders suggested the seed head be removed from the mugwort. Ms. O'Hare said when  
18 she noticed a huge swatch near Cheshire Road and the Erratic Boulder area was not mowed by Todd  
19 Mervosh, the vendor, she contacted him again. Ms. O'Hare said she wants the sides of the trail made by  
20 Zachary Blum to be cut by Public Works in order to control the weeds which have grown there.  
21 Commissioner Borne said the area by the pond should be mowed by Public Works.

22 **C. Ferguson Woods – 2006 Environmental Site Assessment**

23 Ms. O'Hare passed around the environmental site assessment for hazardous waste done by Environmental  
24 Services of Meriden, several years ago.

25 Commissioner Saunders said the hay was cut at Field 4B but the laneway was not cut.

26 **D. Marcus Cooke Park – trails system – status**

27 Chair Heffernon said she, Vice-Chair Lathrop and Commissioner Arsenault cleaned up the damage from the  
28 microburst which occurred this past June. She said the trail needs to be reblazed, maybe by a Scout, and  
29 the trails should be set on the map.

30 **E. Beseck Meadow**

31 1. Second cutting

32 Ms. O'Hare said Public Works will pay for the cutting. Ms. O'Hare said three bids are needed and public  
33 works is obtaining them.

34 2. Lease proposal

1 Commissioner Saunders said the lease proposal for this property will be put out in the Fal with the rest of  
2 the lease bids.

3 3. Survey and boundary marking

4 Ms. O'Hare said she received a memo from Rob Baltramaitis stating the boundary was remarked at the  
5 entranceway. *Ms. O'Hare will ask the Engineering Dept. about the location of the survey sticks which are*  
6 *located now in the middle of the road.* Chair Heffernon suggested the entranceway on the Town property  
7 be cleaned up.

8 **F. 1361 Whirlwind Hill Road property (white barn) – bat box proposal**

9 Chair Heffernon said Mayor Dickinson does not want the bat box placed onto the house. Ms. O'Hare asked  
10 about the kestrel boxes built by the Boy Scouts.

11 **G. Other properties**

12 Nothing to report.

13 **5.PROPERTY ACQUISITION/PRESERVATION**

14 **A. Sandplains**

15 Ms. O'Hare said she, Chair Heffernon and Don Roe, Grant Administrator, met with Mayor Dickinson a  
16 month ago to inform him of the Commission's resolution that the sandplains should be preserved and  
17 protected. She said Mayor Dickinson said the public should be able to access this land if it preserved by the  
18 Town. She said the State indicated later it would hold the conservation easement. She showed the sketch  
19 of the proposed factory that would have been built on the sandplain site. She said the Town will contact  
20 Allnex, the property owner.

21 **B. Other**

22 **6. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

23 **A. Lease field conditions (36 fields) and consideration of certain lease**  
24 **requirements – status**

25 Commissioner Saunders said the FLC met and worked on the full leases. She said the sugar bush will be  
26 included in the bid package.

27 **B.Field 4A – required mowing**

28 Ms. O'Hare said she will ask the Lessee to mow. *Ms. O'Hare will write a letter to the Lessee asking that the*  
29 *front part of the field be mowed first, then the rest.*

30 **C. Farmland Committee – monitoring report**

31 Commissioner Saunders noted it is mid-season, and said the monitoring reports will be completed in the  
32 fall.

1 **7. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

2 **A. Celebrate Open Space Day – schedule**

3 Chair Heffernon suggested the hike take place on the Blue Trail on Oct. 22. The Commission concurred.  
4 *She will research the access and other details.*

5 **8. OTHER TOPICS**

6 Chair Heffernon spoke about her attendance earlier tonight at the Charter Revision Commission to discuss  
7 the status of the Environment Planner position. She spoke about Personnel Director Jim Hutt's  
8 memorandum which stated the Environmental Planner position falls under Classified Services which the  
9 Charter Revision Commission agreed with and voted unanimously to change that the Environmental  
10 Planner be hired and fired by the Mayor not by the Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commission. Chair  
11 Heffernon said she made the point this issue was driven by the Conservation Commission not by the  
12 Environmental Planner.

13 Chair Heffernon spoke about the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development and the Plan  
14 Implementation Committee. She said each Commission and Board, with the exception of the P&Z which  
15 can have two members, has to select a member to serve on this Implementation Committee which will  
16 probably meet four times a year. She said the Conservation Commission should make a list of priorities.

17 Ms. O'Hare spoke about the PZC Minutes of the POCD hearing, June 6. She noted the Conservation  
18 Commission didn't receive a copy and read some of the highlights.

19 Commissioner Saunders spoke about the CIPWG symposium in October. She said there will be a session on  
20 biological control (goats) for management of invasives. She said the registration is open to 500 people.  
21 Commissioner Saunders said on Oct. 2, Peter Picone will sponsor a bus and field trip to managed open  
22 space vs. unmanaged open space at Session Woods. Commissioner Saunders spoke about the WCC  
23 sponsorship for CIPWG. The Commission agreed to the sponsorship.

24 **Vice-Chair Lathrop made a motion to appoint Chair Heffernon to serve on the Implementation**  
25 **Committee. Commissioner Borne seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

26 **9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

27 **A. Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-200 (6)(D) of the Connecticut**  
28 **General Statutes with respect to the purchase sale and/or leasing of property – No Executive**  
29 **Session.**

30 **10. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

31 **A. DEEP Notice of Determination – Section 401 Water Quality Certification – Notice of**  
32 **Federal Coastal Consistency Review – Department of the Army General Permit for the State of Connecticut**  
33 **Municipalities: Statewide; Waters: All Waters dated 6/10/16; received 6-22-16.**

34 **B. CT Butterfly Association, Inc. – membership dues**

1 **Vice-Chair Lathrop made a motion to renew the CT Butterfly Association membership dues.**  
2 **Commissioner Saunders seconded the motion which passed unanimously**

3 **C. CT Land Conservation Council – membership dues**

4 **Commissioner Borne made a motion to renew the CT Land Conservation Council membership**  
5 **dues. Commissioner Ceneri seconded the motion which passed unanimously.**

6 **D. CT Land Conservation Council – Training & Education Programs**

7 **E. Legislation re: Mini-motorcycles, dirt bikes and ATV's**

8 Ms. O'Hare said municipalities can now regulate the use and impose penalties which include confiscation  
9 and the selling of these mini-motorcycles, dirt bikes and ATVs at an auction. Commissioner Saunders  
10 suggested following up to express support to the Police Dept. *Ms. O'Hare will write a memo to Atty. Small*  
11 *regarding this.*

12 **F. CT Wildlife, DEEP magazine, May/June 2016 – distributed to the WCC.**

13 **G. CT Woodlands, CFPA magazine, Summer 2016 – distributed to the WCC.**

14 **H. CT Agricultural Experiment Station – Plant Science Day, Lockwood Farm, Aug. 3,**  
15 **2016, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

16 **11. NEXT MEETING –August 11, 2016**

17 **12. ADJOURNMENT**

18 Vice-Chair Lathrop made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 9:34 p.m. Commissioner Borne seconded the  
19 motion which passed unanimously.

20 Respectfully submitted,

21 Cynthia A. Kleist

22 Recording Secretary

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