

1 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **REGULAR MEETING**

3 **Thursday, August 9, 2012**

4 **7 P.M.**

5 **Town Hall Basement Conference Room**

6 **45 South Main Street**

7 **Wallingford, CT**

8
9 **MINUTES**

10
11 **PRESENT:** Chairman Jeff Borne; Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Carl Arsenault;
12 James Pyskaty; Dianne Saunders; Dianne Lendler; Tom Pietras; Erin O'Hare, Environmental and
13 Natural Resources Planner; Mayor William Dickinson.

14 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioners Ken Ryan and John Lathrop.

15 Chairman Borne called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

16 Chairman Borne introduced Mayor Dickinson who spoke about the naming of the Tyler Mill open
17 space property. At the Junemeeting, the consensus of the Commission was the name "Tyler
18 Mill Preserve" over the requested "Muddy River Preserve."

19 Mayor Dickinson said the Tyler Mill area is fantastic environmental/ecological area; the life blood
20 of it is the Pine River/ Muddy River. He said the Mill and other things are features, but the Class
21 AA stream, the Muddy River, which was once the Pine River, is the natural feature there that
22 courses through it. He said the wildlife gets their energy, resources and habitat ultimately from
23 that river moving through there.

24 Mayor Dickinson said his concern is that we make a statement for the future what has to be
25 protected. He said it is not just about a mill site, but about the ecological fauna and flora that
26 goes beyond what man has tried to do there, it is a balance between what men do and what
27 nature needs. He said this is the river, the purity, a Class AA stream, and how many are there.
28 Mayor Dickinson said the protection of the stream is the dominant reason to protect that area
29 and manage it properly, to maintain it. He said the Mill is a wonderful thing, but he is concerned
30 that our duty to the future is our recognition of the river and what it has done in providing to
31 man and nature throughout Wallingford's history and what its future should be.

1 Mayor Dickinson said he is not against renaming but wanted to emphasize for the future, the
2 importance of the Muddy River. Chairman Borne asked if this had to do with what would be put
3 on a kiosk, what we would call this area. Mayor Dickinson said he believed this had to do with
4 the major sign for the area and what we refer to it as. He said it could be on a kiosk but
5 certainly any signage or reference to the area.

6 Commissioner Lendler said in June there was a vote taken but there might have been some
7 confusion. Chairman Borne said there was a consensus but no action was taken. Mayor
8 Dickinson said if there is an interest in renaming, it would go to the Town Council.
9 Commissioner Lendler said on the main kiosk the name should be "Tyler Mill Preserve." She said
10 there are many references that say "Tyler Mill/Muddy River." She said it could keep its name for
11 documenting signs. The trail signs out there say "Tyler Mill Preserve" and they would have to be
12 re-done. She said the main kiosk can say "Tyler Mill Preserve/Muddy River Recreation Area."
13 Mayor Dickinson said this is an area we want to preserve without man-made improvements so
14 "Recreation Area" does not fit.

15 Commissioner Saunders indicated the Mill became the manufacturing base for the Town in the
16 1800's but prior to that, the agricultural base that sustained the village, the East Farms, was
17 Tyler Mill.

18 Chairman Borne thanked the Mayor for coming and the Mayor left the meeting at this time.

19 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

20 **A. Minutes, July 12, 2012.**

21 On page 5, Vice-Chair Heffernon said Open Space Day was held at Bertini Park.

22 On page 6, item 8, first paragraph, Commissioner Saunders requested the word "archeological"
23 be left out of the Minutes.

24 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Saunders to**
25 **approve the July 12, 2012 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed**
26 **unanimously.**

27 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

28 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

- 29 1. DEP Recreational Trails Grant Program
30 a. Work Progress – report, Trails Committee

31 Vice-Chair Heffernon said the following additional work has been completed: Black and Blue
32 Trail has been blazed, and the two posts for the Lilac Trail off of Tyler Mill Rd. at the beginning
33 of Northford Rd. have been installed. Vice-Chair Heffernon said a huge log in the stream has
34 been removed. Ms. O'Hare said under the original contract, Ferrucci & Walicki are waiting for the
35 last \$2,500 because the invasives down by the bridge have not yet been cut.

- 36 b. Additional contract work (Part A & Part B)-Reported above.
37 c. Parking lots, entranceway and kiosks – status.

1 Ms. O'Hare said the Engineering Department will be preparing a schematic plan for the main
2 entrance and Henry McCully, Director of Public Works, is obtaining quotes on the construction
3 of the three kiosks.

4 2. Tree down above Tyler Mill dam cribbing – status

5 Ms. O'Hare said Wallingford Tree was the lowest bidder and the work will be completed very
6 soon. She said they will enter at the Maltby Lane entrance.

7 Chairman Borne said that Commissioner Saunders had sent out an email to the Commission
8 about the Trees of Heaven near the Pink Trail. Commissioner Saunders passed around photos
9 and said two Trees of Heaven were cut during the chainsaw training class and since they were
10 not chemically treated, they have responded vigorously. She said the treatment needs to be
11 done. Ms. O'Hare indicated the work can be done in a future contract.

12 **Fresh Meadow Swamp At Cheshire Road**

13 1. DEEP Recreational Trail Grant application – status

14 Ms. O'Hare said the Town should receive word about the status of the \$91,000 Grant
15 application by the end of September.

16 2. Improvements

17 Ms. O'Hare said the FY 2011/2012 improvement work has been completed. The next step would
18 be for the Trails Committee to look at the entire project. Ms. O'Hare suggested waiting until the
19 end of September pending grant status.

20 She spoke about the cottonwoods invading the "onionfield", beyond the wetlands and also on
21 the corner of Schoolhouse Road and Cheshire Road. She said Steve Palermo, Foreman, Public
22 Works Foreman intends to mow them down each year with the Brontosaurus upon approval and
23 keep them down through regular mowing. The Commission agreed.

24 Ms. O'Hare also spoke about a complaint from a resident on Tuttle Avenue regarding the
25 overgrowth of weeds on the edge of the road. She showed photos and suggested having Public
26 Works cut back 15 feet from the edge of the road as suggested by the resident which the
27 Commission recommended to have done.

28 *Ms. O'Hare will follow-up.*

29 **B. Beseck Mountain**

30 1. CFPA unpermitted trail information – Nothing to report.

31 **C. Beseck Meadow**

32 1. Mowing schedule.

33 Vice-Chair Heffernon said the driveway was mowed by Public Works recently as requested. *Ms.*
34 *O'Hare will remind Public Works Beseck Meadow is to be mown this year.*

35 2. Bamboo issue

1 Vice-Chair Heffernon and Commissioner Saunders reported on the extensive stand of running
2 bamboo planted by a neighbor now spreading on the Town's access way. The CT Agricultural
3 Experiment Station is interested in using this reported invasion as a test site. Ms. O'Hare has
4 requested the Engineering Department mark the access boundary in this regard. *Ms. O*

5 *Hare will forward a letter to CT Agricultural Experiment Station in this regard.*

6 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Saunders second by Vice-Chair Heffernon to**
7 **authorize the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to use the Beseck**
8 **Meadow access for testing management practices on the running bamboo. The**
9 **motion passed unanimously.**

10 **DD. Invasive Species Eradication**

11 1. Long-term invasive species management program – update, D. Saunders.

12 Commissioner Saunders said the knotweed needs to be eradicated near the Tyler Mill entrance
13 and on the two islands. Commissioner Saunders also spoke about the Emerald Ash borer
14 beetles which will be appearing at Mohegan Sun in September. She passed around information
15 and said the Stewards of Tyler Mill volunteers have an assignment to check their trails by the
16 end of August and report back. She also said a "Blitz Day" is planned in September for the
17 beetles and other invasive plants.

18 2. Poison ivy eradication – report, M. Heffernon

19 Vice-Chair Heffernon spoke about the poison ivy infestation at the entrance to the White Trail
20 off of Woodhouse Avenue. She said she applied a mixture of vinegar, salt and dishwasher
21 detergent to eradicate the poison ivy. She passed around "before" and "after" photos of the
22 eradication. Commissioner Saunders reported on the portion of the Red Trail that
23 Commissioner Lendler and Nancy Charles had cleaned off Tamarac Swamp Road. She said at
24 the entrance to the White Trail at Tamarac Swamp Road, there is bittersweet that has created a
25 hedgerow. She said she bagged the berries at the corner of the trail.

26 **D. Volunteer Work Program** – As Commissioner Ryan was not present there is
27 nothing to report.

28 **3. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

29 **A. Environmental Literacy Initiative** – report, M. Heffernon

30 Vice-Chair Heffernon handed out the latest upcoming program flyers. She spoke about possibly
31 getting a park permit to do a program on nocturnal animals and what goes on at night.

32 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

33 **B. Field 18A** – Environmental Review Report

34 Ms. O'Hare distributed a copy of the Environmental Review Team request on Field 18A and
35 forwarded to the State Environmental Review Team this week. The Town will be notified in a
36 week if accepted for the Review.

1 **C. Farmland Committee – report**

2 Commissioner Saunders said the Committee had met on Monday and went through the field
3 map and did draft reports on the changes. She said they talked about the fertilizers on Field
4 13A. She hopes to get these draft proposals to Ms. O'Hare next week or so. She said they
5 received a formal report on Field 7A from the walk they did with the National Resources
6 Conservation Service (NRCS) and Ms. O'Hare. She said NRCS suggested Field 7A be mowed
7 again. She said the Farmland Committee decided the bid specs for Field 7A should be either
8 pasture/hay or deep zone tillage at the top. Ms. O'Hare distributed a copy of the NRCS report
9 on Field 7A which she had previously sent to the Committee. Commissioner Saunders said the
10 Farmland Committee also spoke about the two- envelope bid system process. She said she
11 would like the bids to go to Purchasing in September to have them come back in October. The
12 Committee will be meeting next week. Ms. O'Hare noted the Commission would have to review
13 proposed changes and maps at the September 13 Commission meeting

14 **D. Field 7A – Erosion control plan and proposed use, etc. – Discussed above.**

15 **5. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE – revisions (plan copy forwarded)**

16 Ms. O'Hare said copies of the current Open Space Plan was sent to the Commissioners.
17 Chairman Borne suggested the Commission read over the Plan and discuss it at the September
18 13 meeting.

19 It was agreed the Plan's Vision Statement and the Definition of an Open Space will be reviewed
20 at the September 13 meeting. Ms. O'Hare said the format should be kept and the document
21 updated.

22 **6. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

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

25 Ms. O'Hare said the Law Department said the Town already has an ordinance on this issue and
26 does not need a new one. Ms. O'Hare read the memorandum from Janis Small, Corporation
27 Counsel, to Ms. O'Hare dated August 8, 2012 which stated that the procedure to fine including
28 giving warnings is not ideal and State law requires an initial warning so this process is
29 cumbersome and impractical and she does not recommend utilizing this procedure. Attorney's
30 Signage at Park entrances informing the public that park land is to be left alone was
31 recommended.

32 Chairman Borne spoke about the City of Middletown's ordinance which has a hefty fine for
33 people who remove material on City property or engage in unpermitted activities. He suggested
34 modifying the ordinance and putting some teeth into it.

35 Commissioner Saunders said she observed illegal dumping at Piano Overlook. She suggested
36 installing concrete blocks in this vicinity which is near the Northford Road entrance to Tyler Mill.
37 *Ms O'Hare will ask Public Works to install the concrete blocks and remove the couch.*

38 **B.** Public Act 120152 – An Act Concerning the State's Open Space Plan.

1 Ms. O'Hare distributed a notice from the State about adopted legislation which beefed up its
2 own internal requirements for the State Open Space Plan.

3 **C. DEEP Bureau of Materials Management & Compliance Assurance – Water**
4 **Permitting and Enforcement Division – Notice of Tentative Determination re: (Draft**
5 **language) General Permit Domestic Sewage.**

6 Ms. O'Hare said DEEP is changing the permit form for persons who wish to discharge domestic
7 sewage.

8 **D. DEEP Emergency Response & Spill Prevention Division – Vietnam Veterans Memorial**
9 **Park – illegal pesticide dumping report.**

10 Commissioner Saunders spoke about a pesticide applicator who is routinely spraying and
11 depositing the leftover pesticide in the wetlands at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park. She said
12 DEEP is monitoring this incident.

13 Vice-Chair Heffernon spoke about the Town possibly constructing a dog park and finding a
14 suitable site.

15 Ms. O'Hare spoke about a talk about box turtles at Fawn Drive wetlands for the neighborhood
16 to be held on August 13, at 5 p.m.

17 **E. CACIWC newsletter, The Habitat**

18 Ms. O'Hare distributed copies of The Habitat newsletter.

19 **7. NEXT MEETING – September 13, 2012**

20 **8. ADJOURNMENT**

21 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Pyskaty to**
22 **adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

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24 Respectfully submitted,

25 Cynthia A. Kleist

26 Recording Secretary

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