

1 **Wallingford Conservation Commission**  
2 **Thursday, August 10, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.**  
3 **Town Hall, Basement Conference Room**  
4 **45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT**

5 **MINUTES**

6  
7 **PRESENT:** Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne Saunders; Mark Ceneri; Carl Arsenault; Tom  
8 Pietras; Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner. Public: Mike Miller.

9 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioners Diane Lendler; Jeff Borne; Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Jim Pyskaty.

10 Chair Heffernon called the Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and took the agenda in the following order:

11 **1. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

12 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

- 13 1. Kiosk specifications, D. Saunders

14 Commissioner Saunders said there were three decisions. She showed the specs sheet for the products and  
15 said John Gawlak, Parks and Recreation Director has all the information. Commission Saunders said the  
16 biggest decision is the roof color. She mentioned the color green and said this color is not available in CT  
17 and must be obtained from the manufacturer. She said the other colors were charcoal and red are  
18 available at Home Depot. Commissioner Saunders passed around a photo and samples. Commissioner  
19 Saunders said it would be \$76 dollars less for charcoal and \$46 less for the red color.

20 Commissioner Saunders also showed the specs for the proposed kiosk and discussed the current kiosk  
21 which she said currently has a door which lifts up and requires two people to work on it. She said she  
22 changed the pitch so the kiosk is wider and said by having side opening doors it will allow for a drip edge.  
23 She said there will be a barrel bolt installed. Commissioner Saunders said the Plexiglas will be  
24 shatterproof.

25 The Commission decided on green for the roof color. *Commissioner Saunders will follow-up with Mr.*  
26 *Gawlak. Commissioner Arsenault will report back on graffiti removal product.*

27 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

28 **A. Minutes, Regular Meeting, July 13, 2017, 7:00 p.m.**

29 On page 2 Beseck Meadows, should say in italics that Ms. O'Hare will request proper procedure from Henry  
30 McCully, Director of Public Works and will attach Jeff Ward's CT Agricultural Experiment Station memo; On  
31 page 3, line 25, under Vehicle Idling should read "some for as long as 30 minutes"; line 30, it is Celebrate  
32 Wallingford not Taste of Wallingford; Page 4, line 9, should read "27 percent of the ticks tested in CT  
33 tested positive for Lyme Disease".

1 **Motion: A motion by Commissioner Ceneri seconded by Commissioner Arsenault to approve**  
2 **the Regular July 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes as amended.**

3 **Vote: Unanimous**

4 2. Stewards of Tyler Mill-report, D. Saunders & D. Lendler

5 Commissioner Saunders said the trail clearing is continuing. She said one of the Stewards has been  
6 working on all the culverts in Tyler Mill to clear them of debris. Commissioner Saunders spoke about  
7 winged sumac which is in bloom now which will be rescued at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park from  
8 multiflora.

9 3. Tyler Mill Preserve Management Planning Committee

10 Commissioner Saunders said a meeting is set for Sept. 7 at 9 a.m. in the Basement Conference Room in  
11 the Town Hall. Committee members are John Lathrop, Dianne Saunders, Mark Ceneri, Dianne Lendler with  
12 Erin O'Hare.

13 4. Entranceway mowing & Japanese knotweed

14 Ms. O'Hare showed a photo of the mugwort at the Tyler Mill Entrance which she said has grown over her  
15 head. *Chair Heffernon will request the Water Division mow both sides of their Right-Of-Way.* Ms. O'Hare  
16 said the knotweed is there and is the best it has ever been. She said thousands of dollars have been spent  
17 on eradicating the knotweed and phragmites since 2010. *Ms. O'Hare will inquire as to when the Water*  
18 *Division will be doing their project as this could possibly be tied to eradication work.*

19 **A. Ferguson Woods**

20 1. Tree vandalism report – D. Saunders

21 Chair Heffernon said she cannot get any information regarding the person who cut down the trees at  
22 Ferguson Woods. *She said and Commissioner Saunders will go out this Saturday and Sunday to inventory*  
23 *how many trees were cut.*

24 2. Weed clearing along trail

25 Vice-Chair Heffernon said she, Commissioner Saunders and Commissioner Arsenault cleared weeds along  
26 the trail at Ferguson Woods.

27 **B. Beseck Meadow**

28 1. Boundary marking

29 Ms. O'Hare said she went out last Friday and reported the boundary was staked and the poles, not the  
30 fencing, have been installed along with the boundary markings a foot from the actual property line. Photos  
31 were shown. Commissioner Saunders said she recommended Public Works spray the bamboo by the end  
32 of August.

33 2. Bamboo management

1 Ms. O'Hare spoke about the property owner not managing his bamboo which abuts Town property. Ms.  
2 O'Hare suggested she write a letter to the property owner regarding this issue. Chair Heffernon suggested  
3 Corporation Counsel Janis Small write the property owner soon and noted it's a new owner.

4 *Ms. O'Hare said she will ask Public Works regarding imminent treatment of the Town's bamboo as*  
5 *discussed and will report to Commissioner Saunders and Chair Heffernon.*

6 **C. Fresh Meadows**

7 1. CT Recreational Trails Program Project – update

8 Ms. O'Hare said the bid has not been sent out citing a glitch. She said the bid now has to be split with a  
9 base bid which is most of the work including a revised Butterfly Meadow Trail measured from the parking  
10 lot and an alternate bid which is the Pond Trail and fishing pier. She said Lenard Engineering will get  
11 started on the new changes next week.

12 Ms. O'Hare said screenings, which is the biggest type of stone dust which can be purchased, will be stone,  
13 for the trail as recommended by Tiffany Simpson, Assistant Town Engineer. Ms. O'Hare passed around a  
14 sample. The Commission discussed whether or not it would be prudent to use this type of stone dust and  
15 discussed possible options. Ms. O'Hare will express the Commission's concern.

16 2. Site condition

17 Ms. O'Hare said she went out to Fresh Meadows and said the area looked abandoned and she sent a fax to  
18 Public Works requesting they weed whack around the edge of the parking lot and around the picnic tables  
19 which was done. Ms. O'Hare showed photos of the many flowers in the butterfly meadow and noted she  
20 saw very few invasive weeds.

21 Ms. O'Hare asked that someone check around Ken Ryan's tree for possible invasives. She reported a raven  
22 near the former Cuneo property. Ms. O'Hare said if the bid is awarded, the Town is required to mow in  
23 September where the contractor will be working.

24 Commissioner Arsenault reported he trimmed Tessa's Trail and noticed the cutting of approximately one  
25 dozen saplings in the knoll area.

26 Commissioner Saunders spoke about Field 1C which she said was filled with pollinators. She said the  
27 mowing is important to the Butterfly Meadow.

28 **D. Lufbery Park – alteration activity remediation**

29 Chair Heffernon said she sent Jason Michaels who is in charge of the Frisbee Golf, an email to which there  
30 was no response. She said she also forwarded the email to John Gawlak, Parks & Recreation Director, to  
31 discuss at their Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

32 **E. Other properties**

33 Ms. O'Hare spoke about the canoe/kayak trail signage at the Quinnipiac River Trail at Fireworks Island is  
34 hidden by two feet of mugwort. She said she requested Public Works remove the mugwort.

1       **3. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

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

3       Commissioner Saunders said she and Chair Heffernon met with the Mayor Dickinson, Rob Baltramaitis and  
4       John Gawlak by phone and the Rod and Gun Club regarding the Right-Of-Way issue. She said trucks are  
5       trespassing onto the vernal pool area and the alfalfa field. The Commission agreed with Ms. O'Hare's  
6       suggestion to install a sign saying "Agricultural Fields - No Motorized Vehicles in Fields/No Parking."

7       *Ms. O'Hare will follow up on the signage.*

8               **B. Proposal to use qualifications-based bid process – Town Council Meeting, Aug. 8.**

9       Ms. O'Hare said there was an RFQ proposed a month ago and it morphed into a qualifications-based bid  
10       process. She said she changed the wording and sent it to Sal Amodeo, Purchasing Director, who approved  
11       it and it passed on the Council's Consent Agenda. Chair Heffernon spoke about Bruce Conroy's public  
12       comments at the Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> Town Council meeting about not using this bid process.

13              **C. Lease revision proposal**

14       Ms. O'Hare said Field 18A is coming up for bid this fall and is a 90-acre site. A Farmland Lease Committee  
15       meeting was scheduled for August 15 at 4 p.m. in the Town Hall Basement Conference Room.

16              **D. Field 1A, North Branford Road – Autumn Olive in conservation management area**

17       Ms. O'Hare said she visited the site last Friday. She said the new lease requires the lessee to do  
18       conservation management. She said she was surprised to see 8 ft. autumn olive trees on the field. Ms.  
19       O'Hare said the lease requires the autumn olive to be cut between August and November.

20              **E. Field 8B, Northford Road – mowing and field edge maintenance**

21       Commissioner Saunders said the farmer doesn't cut the hay or do maintenance mowing. She said the field  
22       is going to weed and said the lessee hasn't shown up on the field this year. Ms. O'Hare said the Autumn  
23       olive is covering the Lilac Trail post and also covering the gate. She passed around photos.

24       *Commissioner Saunders will touch base with the lessee regarding this issue.*

25              **F. Field 20A, off Powderhill Road – gate**

26       Ms. O'Hare said the farmer cannot access the field because the gate has not yet been widened.. She said  
27       Public Works will have Guilford Fence alter the gate as soon as possible

28              **F. Farmland Committee**

29       Commissioner Saunders said the Committee will meet August 15. She said the Monitoring Reports should  
30       be done in September.

31       **4. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

1           **A. Vehicle idling initiative: film, "Idle Threat,"** Wallingford Public Library, Sept. 7, 6:30 p.m.

2 Chair Heffernon said Schools Supt. Sal Menzo is speaking with the maintenance person to install better  
3 signage at the schools drop-off and pick-up areas. She passed around a flyer that will be posted on the  
4 school's website and will also be distributed to the parents. Chair Heffernon also sent the flyer to John  
5 Gawlak. She spoke about the film to be shown on Sept. 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library. Chair Heffernon said  
6 she would like to have this idling information put into the Electric Division's bill and the Health Dept. will  
7 have this information available at Celebrate Wallingford.

8           **5. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

9           **A. Ken Ryan memorial stone,** M. Heffernon

10 Chair Heffernon said Commissioner Arsenault and Vice-Chair Lathrop installed Ken's rock near the  
11 memorial tree at Fresh Meadows.

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

13 **MOTION: Commissioner Saunders made a motion to pay the \$25 CT Butterfly Association**  
14 **dues. Commissioner Arsenault seconded the motion.**

15 **Vote: unanimous.**

16           **C. Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program – application deadline**  
17           2/2/18, received 7/21/17

18 Ms. O'Hare asked the Commission to keep in mind any properties for this grant program.

19           **D. CFPA- membership dues & list of upcoming programs**

20 Ms. O'Hare said the dues are \$75. Ms. O'Hare said the CFPA sent her a list of their events in August and  
21 September. She spoke about forest bathing meditation program offered by CFPA.

22 **MOTION: Commissioner Arsenault made a motion to pay the \$75 CFPA membership dues.**  
23 **Commissioner Ceneri seconded the motion.**

24 **Vote: unanimous**

25           **E. CFPA program – Wallingford Public Library, Aug. 17, 6-8 p.m.**

26 Chair Heffernon said this program is for CFPA members or donors who reside in specific counties.

27 Chair Heffernon spoke about an email she received from a woman in South Carolina regarding the trail  
28 numbering system. She said the woman told Chair Heffernon they had completed their trail numbering  
29 system which she said was a success.

30 Chair Heffernon said John Gawlak forwarded her information about the National Resources Academy and  
31 received correspondence from a woman at UCONN regarding this Academy which involves high school

1 students. She said a student would like to study butterflies within Tyler Mill and needs a community  
2 partner. She said the Commission would be interested in serving as a Community Partner for the student.

3 **6. NEXT MEETING – Sept. 14, 2017**

4 **7. ADJOURNMENT**

5 **Motion: A motion by Commissioner Ceneri second by Commissioner Arsenault to adjourn the**  
6 **Meeting at 9:40p.m.**

7 **The motion passed unanimously.**

8

9 Respectfully submitted,

10 Cynthia A. Kleist

11 Recording Secretary

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