

WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, August 11, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Basement Conference Room, Town Hall

45 South Main Street, Wallingford, Connecticut

PRESENT: Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Mark Ceneri; Carl Arsenault; Jeff Borne; Jim Pyskaty; Dianne Saunders; Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner.

NOT PRESENT: Dianne Saunders; Dianne Lendler; Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Tom Pietras.

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

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes, Special Meeting, July 21, 2016

On page 1 third line it is Luftbery not Luftberry; page 3, under Recreational Trails Grant, Susan Schott was at the Meeting from Program Planning;

Under Ferguson Woods, on Page 3, item C, Field 4C has nothing to do with Ferguson Woods.

On page 3 under item "D", "set" on the map means it is all set.

On page 5, POCD should be added to Implementation Committee.

MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Ceneri second by Commissioner Borne to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2016 as amended. The vote was unanimous.

MOTION:

2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

A. Tyler Mill Preserve

1. Stewards of Tyler Mill – report, D. Saunders –No report
2. Entranceway – knotweed treatment

Ms. O'Hare said the RFQ went out Wednesday to seven people and two called back so far to and indicate they would bid.

B. Fresh Meadows

1. CT Recreational Trails Grant award

Ms. O'Hare said she received a copy of a letter from Don Roe, Grant Administrator, to the Mayor, dated Aug. 15 which requests to be put on the Aug.23 Town Council agenda for approval of the attached

resolution to authorize the \$227,228 grant award amount for the trail project. She said after this, the bid will be put out.

2. Mowing

Ms. O'Hare said she will be going with Steve Palermo, General Foreman, Public Works Dept., to do a site visit. She said she wants the mowing done in Fresh Meadows in steps, not all at once.

C. Beseck Meadow

1. Second cutting

Ms. O'Hare said she met with Henry McCully, Public Works Director, and Commissioner Arsenault. She said there were only two bids. Ms. O'Hare said she contacted a few farmers on Thursday who may be interested in cutting the meadow. Commissioner Arsenault said two bids have been received and one more bid is needed. Ms. O'Hare said she also received a call from All-Habitat Services today for this quote.

Commissioner Arsenault reported an ATV trail going from a residential property through the bamboo and onto the access road. The ATV use has created a significant track in the field.

D. Doolittle Park – grant application status

Chair Heffernon said she sent in the grant application for streambank restoration to the Wallingford Rotary Community Fund but was informed the Conservation Commission did not receive the grant.

E. Beseck Mountain

1. Recent use issues

Chair Heffernon spoke about people lighting fires and drinking on trails at Beseck Mountain and vandalism. She spoke about the Town ordinance which states all parks and open space are closed at dusk. Chair Heffernon said she sent an email to the CFPA telling them of the situation and made the police aware of the ordinance. Chair Heffernon suggested a sign be installed stating "trail closes at dusk." *Chair Heffernon will contact the Recreation Committee. Ms. O'Hare will provide the Community Police with a map of the boundaries of the Beseck Mountain open space property and will ask them for working suggestions for signage.*

Chair Heffernon indicated two CFPA (CT. Forest & Park Association) representatives will check out the conditions of the trail on the ridgetop regarding the complaint issues.

F. Other properties

Ms. O'Hare spoke about damage on the Black Trail at Tyler Mill off Woodhouse Avenue down by the river's edge.

3. PROPERTY ACQUISITION/PRESERVATION

A. Sandplain – Critical habitat – status

Ms. O'Hare said she forward Mayor Dickinson a memorandum regarding Allnex stemming from the original meeting. Chair Heffernon, Don Roe and the Mayor met to discuss the sandplains in June. She said she sent the Mayor a copy of the schematics that she received when she met with the developer in January. Chair Heffernon spoke about an article in the paper about Allnex dumping in the Quinnipiac. She said Allnex put together a Community Advisory Board which met on Thursday for the first time. She attended as a member of the Board.

B. Other

4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM

A. Field 4A, Whirlwind Hill Road – required mowing

Ms. O'Hare said Commissioner Saunders left a message saying Field 4A was mowed.

B. Farmland Committee

No updates. Ms. O'Hare said Commissioner Saunders is typing up a lease proposal for the Besock Meadow property.

5. PUBLIC OUTREACH

A. Celebrate Open Space Day, hiking in Tri-Mountain State Park, Saturday, Oct. 22.

Chair Heffernon said she went out to Howd Road in Durham, which is the access point and noted there were not a lot of parking spaces. Commissioner Ceneri suggested accessing the area by Pistapaug Pond. *Chair Heffernon will check with Don Roe, about the van and the Water Division regarding the parking area by Pistapaug Pond.*

6. OTHER TOPICS

A. Commissioner Ryan memorial

Chair Heffernon said she sent an email to Karen Ryan regarding a memorial ceremony for Ken Ryan in September.

C. Potential ordinance proposals

Chair Heffernon spoke about going back to the Ordinance Committee regarding potential proposals. She spoke about idling cars and noted the State ordinance is a three minutes limit for idling. She asked the Commission's input regarding a possible Town ordinance. Commissioner Borne suggesting turning this issue over to the Health Department. *Chair Heffernon will contact Health Dept. Director Eloise Hazelwood.*

7. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION – Not taken up.

A. Executive Session pursuant to Section 1-200(6)(D) of the Connecticut General Statutes with respect to the purchase, sale, and/or leasing of property

8. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

A. Wallingford Plan of Conservation and Development – 2016-2026; Adopted Plan, effective June 13, 2016 – copy; received 8/2/16.

Ms. O'Hare went over the memo from Town Planner Kacie Costello to the Dept. Heads regarding the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) forwarded. It is also on the Town website. She discussed the State's criteria for conservation areas which was included in the final POCD open space plan with the Commission. Chair Heffernon suggested the Commission discuss the POCD in relation to the Open Space Plan in more detail in September.

Commissioner Borne spoke about riding through the new part of the trail to Fireworks Island.

B. DEEP Notice of Permit Application Approval For Diversion of Water Permit (DIV-201509812) – The Tradition Golf Club at Wallingford, LLC, 37 Harrison Road, Wallingford – withdrawal of a total combined maximum daily amount of 300,000 gallons of water per day from two on-site ponds for the purpose of golf course irrigation and will affect Allen Brook; dated 7/26/16; received 8/2/16.

C. South Central Regional Council of Governments – Recreational Trail Maps; received 8/9/16.

Ms. O'Hare spoke about the SCRCOG's Recreational Trails Map of Tyler Mill Preserve which has been completed through a grant. She said Mr. Roe will be given a trails map for every recreational area in Wallingford.

9. NEXT MEETING – September 15, 2016

10. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Pyskaty made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 8:35 pm. Commissioner Ceneri seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Kleist

Recording Secretary