

1 DRAFT

2 WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

3 REGULAR MEETING

4 Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013

5 7:00 p.m.

6 Town Hall, Basement Conference Room

7 45 South Main Street

8 Wallingford, Connecticut

9 MINUTES

10

11 **PRESENT:** Chairman Jeffrey Borne; Commissioners Ken Ryan, John Lathrop, Carl Arsenault,
12 Dianne Saunders, Dianne Lendler, Tom Pietras, Jim Pyskaty, Erin O'Hare, Environmental and
13 Natural Resources Planner.

14 **NOT PRESENT:** Vice Chair Mary Heffernon.

15 Chairman Borne called the Meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

16 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

17 **A. Minutes, August 8, 2013**

18 On page 8, line, 2, Commissioner Ryan noted that John "Serrotti" should be "Cerrotti."

19 On page 4, line 5, Commissioner Arsenault noted the line just reads: "The horse trail" and
20 should be removed.

21 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Ryan second by Commissioner Arsenault to**
22 **accept the August 8 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.**

23 Chairman Borne took the agenda in the following order:

24 **3. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

25 **A. Farmland Lease Cycle – 2014-2018**

- 26 1. Meeting to review Draft proposed bid document, Aug. 12 – report
27 2. Draft proposed bid document - status

28 Commissioner Saunders said the meeting took place on August, 12, and Vice-Chair Heffernon
29 helped edit the proposed bid document regarding 22 hayfields. She said on August 12, Ms.
30 O'Hare sent information about Field 14A which was then included in the document. She said

1 there were a few discrepancies which were fixed. She said the document was printed and, Vice-
2 Chair Heffernon and Commissioner Pietras took the document to meet with Ms. O'Hare and
3 later to give to Mayor Dickinson.

4 Chairman Borne relayed a statement from Vice-Chair Heffernon who said she was pleased with
5 the outcome and the bid document was submitted to the Purchasing Department well ahead of
6 the September 16 deadline. Chairman Borne said everyone worked together and the bid
7 document came out well ahead of the deadline proposed by Mayor Dickinson.

8 Regarding the above report, Ms. O'Hare said she, Commissioner Pietras, and Vice-Chair
9 Heffernon met in Town Hall for three hours on August 27 and then Vice-Chair Heffernon made
10 minor revisions and submitted the bid document to Mayor Dickinson, who then sent it to the
11 Law Department for review. She said Mayor Dickinson returned the document back to Vice-
12 Chair Heffernon who then submitted it to the Purchasing Department on August 30. They will
13 advertise the report on September 26, with the bids going out mid-October. She said Mayor
14 Dickinson had approved this schedule.

15 Commissioner Lendler asked what the Purchasing Dept. does with the bid document.

16 Ms. O'Hare passed around the chart which is an attachment to the document and said
17 Purchasing puts the document into a format they prefer.

18 Chairman Borne asked how the Purchasing Dept. gets the report to the bidders.

19 Commissioner Saunders said the Purchasing Dept. had a list of who has bid previously. She said
20 they also put a notice in the paper.

21 Ms. O'Hare said she also sent a memo to Sal Amadeo, Purchasing Agent, regarding the bidding
22 procedure as requested, asking that all of the questions be collected at once, answered, and a
23 deadline set. She stated this was done because, in the past, when a potential bidder called her
24 or Mr. Amadeo and asked a question, it stopped the bidding clock until the question was
25 answered.

26 Commissioner Saunders brought in a proposal for Fields 5A and 7A which were not included in
27 the bid document. She said 7A is the field on Northford Road which was sitting idle because of
28 an erosion problem which was fixed. She said Commissioner Pietras did extensive work
29 following up on the NCRS and submitted the Committee's report.

30 Commissioner Pietras said Ms. O'Hare had commented on his report.

31 Ms. O'Hare said she hadn't seen any reports since April.

32 Commissioner Pietras suggested setting up a meeting with the FLC, (Farmland Lease
33 Committee) and Ms. O'Hare to discuss Fields 5A and 7A.

34 Ms. O'Hare said she would prefer seeing the draft report first and critiquing it before the
35 meeting takes place.

36 Commissioner Saunders brought a map of Field 5A and 7A to get a consensus from the
37 Commission regarding an area on Field 5A which has been mowed in the past even though it is

1 not in the lease area. She said the FLC suggested the farmer mow the two areas even though
2 it is not part of the lease. Commissioner Saunders said anything the farmer crops, he mows to
3 keep woody growth at bay. Commissioner Saunders said she believed in Ms. O'Hare's proposal
4 that she, (Ms. O'Hare) wanted to determine when the area should be mowed and would advise
5 the farmer when to mow. Commissioner Saunders said when the FLC met, it was determined
6 they would be out of the micro-managing business. She said the farmer has been responsible
7 and nothing is being hurt.

8 Chairman Borne wondered, in keeping with the other mowing schedule, would this be
9 something to mow after mid-August.

10 Commissioner Saunders said this area would be better off being mowed after mid-August
11 because it is dry.

12 Commissioner Ryan suggested the area be mowed once a year after a certain date.

13 Ms. O'Hare was concerned the area could be mowed too much, for weed control.

14 Commissioner Pietras suggested stating that mowing occur a minimum of once every three
15 years, and no more than once a year. This was agreed.

16 Commissioner Saunders said on the back of the field on the opposite side of the stream, that
17 the trees be left. She said the farmer felt he needed to do something in a straight line. She
18 said the Committee proposed mowing the field side of the stream to promote woodcock habitat
19 there. The area would be called maintenance area "M" which will be identified as such on the
20 map. She said the Committee also suggested the farmer mow the roadside area. Ms. O'Hare
21 said the lease area cannot include the Town Right-of-Way.

22 Commissioner Saunders said State protocol is to leave a woody side and a clear side. It was
23 agreed that a 40-foot wide buffer around the pond would be a "maintenance area" which would
24 only be mowed by the lessee when requested to do so.

25 Ms. O'Hare suggested selective cutting as a way to control woody growth rather than mowing.
26 Commissioner Saunders said the laneway at Field 7A was also discussed at the meeting. It was
27 proposed having the laneway go only 30 ft. or 40 ft. into the field. She said Ms. O'Hare had
28 proposed that the laneway go back the entire length of the field which the Committee felt was
29 not acceptable because of possible dumping or poaching problems.

30 Ms. O'Hare said there was a problem with timely production of the maps, specifically Field 7A
31 which has three different lease area iterations: one for pasture, one for zone tillage and one for
32 hay. She talked about the possibility of having the maps hand-drawn to save time, instead of
33 sending them to the Engineering Department.

34 Chairman Borne agreed to the hand-drawing of the maps.

35 Ms. O'Hare asked Commissioner Saunders to have the FLC send her its version of the reports on
36 Fields 5A and 7A and the maps and noted she will meet with them a week after she receives
37 the information. *Commissioner Saunders will forward these materials in a few days.*

1 Ms. O'Hare said she received a call from a neighbor expressing her delight in seeing a family of
2 13 wild turkeys on Field 13A.

3 **B. Farmland Committee**

- 4 1. Monitoring reports
5 2. Other

6 Ms. Saunders said she did Triangle A Ranch – which is Field 3A, Field 2A and 2B ,and Fields 4A
7 and 19A but has not completed the Monitoring Report. She said she was meeting next week
8 with Mr. Ceccarelli (Fields 1A, 1C, 7E, 7F and 5A).

9 Commissioner Pietras, handed in his Monitoring Report on his three fields, (Fields 18A, 13A, and
10 14A) and left the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

11 Commissioners Arsenault and Pyskaty have not yet completed their respective reports.

12 Commissioner Saunders said she would hand in her Monitoring Report next week to Ms. O'Hare.

13 **C. Mowing quote**

14 Ms. O'Hare said the third request for quotes did not go out.

15 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

16 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

- 17 1. DEP Recreational Trails Grant Program – parking lots, entranceways, and kiosks
18 a. Schematic plan
19 b. Required permitting

20 Ms. O'Hare presented the plan of the parking lot at the Tyler Mill Preserve entrance at Northford
21 Road: Two copies, one of which will be submitted to the ZBA on Friday because a variance is
22 needed to do improvements within 50-feet of the Muddy River and one copy to go for an
23 administrative approval from IWWC. She said it will also go before Planning and Zoning after
24 ZBA. Ms. O'Hare said this project is down to the wire, because the parking lots need to be
25 constructed before winter.

26 The Commission also discussed the possible location of the rule sign kiosk. Commissioner
27 Saunders questioned the location of the kiosk stating that the public must commit to reading
28 the sign before they commit to enter the road and the sign should be facing the road with the
29 map on the back, because once they enter the road they cannot turn around. She suggested
30 the sign kiosk should be located behind the big tree on the opposite side.

31 Chairman Borne suggested the kiosk with the sign be located near the boulders.

32 Reading from the notes on the map, Chairman Borne said 18 parking spaces, including one
33 handicap parking space are proposed for the project; seven spaces of which may already exist.
34 He said a parking space could probably be eliminated in order to put in the sign kiosk. Chairman

1 Borne asked if the sign could be moved so it would not be located behind the tree. He said
2 Public Works would be performing all of the work.

3 *Ms. O'Hare will review these suggestions at a site visit soon.*

4 Ms. O'Hare said she hoped evergreens could eventually be planted behind the Preserve name
5 sign.

6 Commissioner Saunders said if large trees are planted, it could create a sight line problem
7 resulting in illegal activities.

8 Chairman Borne spoke about the fact that Wallingford has a number of unnamed streams that
9 the Commission may choose to assign names to.

10 Commissioner Lendler suggested installing a large hook to raise up the kiosk plexiglass.

11 c. Maltby Lane kiosk location

12 Ms. O'Hare said she received a request from Steve Palermo, General Foreman, Public Works, to
13 locate the Maltby Lane kiosk in the parking area immediately on the left because it is likely
14 stones from the base of the stone wall by the road will prevent installation there as planned.
15 She suggested installing boulders in front of the kiosk so it does not get hit by vehicles.
16 Commissioner Saunders suggested the kiosk be located in the field.

17 *Ms. O'Hare will select the best of these two suggested locations after a site visit.*

18 2. Proposed footbridges - IWWC approval 9/4/13.

19 Vice-Chair Heffernon and Commissioner Saunders presented the application to the IWWC at its
20 September 4, meeting. Commissioner Saunders said the IWWC approved the application for the
21 three footbridges on the Red Trail south. She said the cost may be less than the \$1,078 (total
22 estimated for all 3), due to switching back to the 5/4 treads run perpendicular; it will cost
23 approximately \$800. She said the Cub Scouts and the Stewards will be building the footbridges.
24 Commissioner Saunders suggested the footbridges be constructed in the Fall.

25 Ms. O'Hare said the money to fund this project could come from the Open Space Resources
26 Management Fund, the Tyler Mill Grant Fund, or the Commission's office supply budget.

27 *Ms. O'Hare will check with Don Roe, Program Planner regarding funding options for the
28 footbridges and will proceed accordingly.*

29 Commissioner Saunders handed in a list of plants completed by a botanist to Ms. O'Hare for the
30 file. She said the botanist recommended filling in the area with ferns, which are abundant and
31 are doing well in this wet area.

32 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner Pyskaty to**
33 **spend up to \$1,000 for materials for three proposed footbridges with funding**
34 **coming from one of three sources to be pursued by the Environmental Planner. The**
35 **motion passed unanimously.**

1 3. Forest Edge Habitat project

2 Commissioner Saunders submitted and presented her report dated September 12, 2013. She
3 said she walked the proposed area with Jerry Maneschewitz and photographed his four-foot
4 map and reduced it to "8 ½ by 11" size so it could be referenced easily. Commissioner
5 Saunders said she sent a follow-up e-mail to Peter Piccone of DEEP and Anthony Zemba of the
6 CT Audubon Society. She said she reviewed the Tyler Mill ERT report and found the project was
7 actually recommended in the report, and there were details as to the size of the area and other
8 specifics that she can review with Mr. Piccone, Mr. Zemba and Anthony Kilpatrick. She said the
9 deer population must be controlled or this project will not be successful. She said deer resistant
10 plants were researched. She indicated Scott Williams is available to eradicate the Japanese
11 barberry if requested to do so. Commissioner Saunders said she will e-mail a copy of the map
12 to Ms. O'Hare. *It was agreed Commissioner Saunders will draft the letter of participation to Mr.
13 Piccone for Ms. O'Hare to forward.*

14 **B. Fresh Meadows**

15 1. Improvements (FY 12-13)

16 Ms. O'Hare said all \$6,000 in the budget was not spent because the Contractor's quote was
17 approximately \$3,700 and the project was not fully completed. Ms. O'Hare said she will meet
18 with the Contractor next Tuesday to assess what portion of the work was satisfactorily
19 completed.

20 2. Improvements (FY 13-14) – status

21 Ms. O'Hare said Lenard Engineering, who came in the second lowest bidder at \$12,600, was
22 awarded the contract and received his P.O. to begin the project which is for the base survey
23 and engineering of the trails which should be completed November 1. She said the survey crew
24 was sent out on Monday. She said \$6,000 was allocated from the Conservation budget and
25 \$6,600 from the Open Space Resources Management Fund.

26 3. Old Gate Road property – dumping

27 Ms. O'Hare said Public Works cleaned up the dumping.

28 *Ms. O'Hare will write a memo to Public Works Director Henry McCully to put in a log by the right
29 side of the road.*

30 **C. Ferguson Woods – signage**

31 Ms. O'Hare reported she had not requested signage from the Police Traffic Department as of
32 yet, *but will do so.*

33 **D. Invasive Species Eradication**

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

35 Commissioner Saunders distributed her report dated September 12, 2013 (for the month of
36 August).

1 Ms. O'Hare said All-Habitat Services was contracted to have the knotweed sprayed before July 1
2 and the Trees of Heaven sprayed after July 1. She said she received an invoice from All-Habitat
3 indicating the Trees of Heaven were sprayed. Commissioner Saunders said she went out on
4 August 28 and said the Trees of Heaven spraying was missed. She said the Japanese knotweed
5 at Northford Road entrance, along the Tyler Mill Road, and two islands were partially treated –
6 many skips – (she had sent memo to staff on August 28). Ms. O'Hare said the Contractor will
7 be paid for a portion of the knotweed. Commissioner Saunders said the knotweed has to be
8 sprayed to prevent it from travelling down the river.

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

10 Commissioner Saunders distributed her Stewards of Tyler Mill Preserve Monthly Activity and
11 Invasive Report dated August 2013. She said for two years, the Stewards have worked on the
12 Tyler Mill Road and Tamarac Swamp Road edges. She said almost all of it is native vegetation
13 and one spot of mugwort is left across from Field 11A and 11B. Commissioner Saunders said
14 Public Works brings in the invasives from their trucks and their mowing machines. She said the
15 knotweed and the honeysuckle was marked off and Public Works went around it. Commissioner
16 Saunders spoke about her concern with Public Works regarding the roads, bringing in more
17 invasives. She asked Ms. O'Hare to ask Mr. Palermo to contact the Stewards before the grading
18 is done on the roads.

19 *Ms. O'Hare will write a memo to Steve Palermo, General Foreman, Public Works Dept., on*
20 *behalf of the Stewards of Tyler Mill requesting a walk with Mr. Palermo to review road grading*
21 *issues prior to doing the road grading project.*

22 Commissioner Saunders said she and Commissioner Lendler did a workshop down by the
23 bridge. She spoke about the snakeskins from black rat snakes she found in a multi-flora bush
24 by the bridge.

25 1A. Bamboo

26 Ms. O'Hare showed her large bamboo file folder to the Commission. She said the issue is
27 ramping up. She said there will be a Town Council Ordinance Committee meeting on Sept. 19
28 which she, Commissioner Saunders, possibly Chairman Borne, and Parks and Recreation
29 Director John Gawlak will be attending.

30 Commissioner Saunders said the difference between the State statute and the proposed
31 ordinance is that the proposed ordinance covers existing incursions whereas the State statute
32 only covers anything planted after October 1. She said a possible ordinance may require a 40-
33 foot setback from neighboring property or a Right-Of-Way to remain indefinitely. Commissioner
34 Saunders said the State statute doesn't go far enough whereas with the 40-foot setback, it is
35 more of a preventative measure. She said the Town of Bozrah has already enacted the 40-foot
36 setback requirement. She said there are two documented reports of bamboo invasion on Town
37 property – Beseck Meadow and Liney Hall Lane (in the Right-Of-Way.)

38 **E. Volunteer Work Program – Nothing to report**

39 **4. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

1 **A. QRWA – Quinnipiac River Watershed Association**

2 Chairman Borne said the QRWA is looking to do some environmental assessments in rivers in its
3 watershed in Wallingford. Commissioner Saunders said the rivers have to be high potential for
4 good quality streams and must be wadable and have riffles. Chairman Borne suggested Spruce
5 Glen Brook, Spring Brook, and Caitlin Brook be considered. Chairman Borne suggested the
6 Commission give ideas to Commissioner Saunders.

7 Commissioner Saunders submitted a copy of the QRWA Watershed Based Plan report dated
8 September 12, 2013.

9 **5. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

10 **A. Farmland Committee**

11 Ms. O'Hare requested this item be kept on the agenda as the Commission should periodically
12 revisit Committee roles. Tabled.

13 **6. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE - revisions**

14 **A. Revisions: "Vision Statement", "Purpose", & "Open Space Defined" - Tabled**

15 **7. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

16 **A. CACIWC – membership dues**

17 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner Pyskaty to**
18 **pay the CACIWC membership dues. The motion passed unanimously.**

19 **8. NEXT MEETING – October 10, 2013**

20 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

21 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Ryan second by Commissioner Pyskaty to**
22 **adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

23

24 Respectfully submitted,

25 Cynthia A. Kleist

26 Recording Secretary

27

28