

1 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **REGULAR MEETING**

3 **Thursday, September 13, 2012**

4 **Town Hall Basement Conference Room**

5 **45 South Main Street**

6 **Wallingford, CT**

7 **MINUTES**

8
9 **PRESENT:** Chairman Jeff Borne; Commissioners Dianne Saunders; Ken Ryan; Carl Arsenault;
10 Tom Pietras; John Lathrop.

11 **NOT PRESENT:** Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Dianne Lendler and Jim Pyskaty.

12 Chairman Borne called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.
13

14 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

15 **A. Minutes, August 9, 2012**

16 On page 2, line 15, Ms. Saunders said it should read "that mills" not "mill." She said "and other
17 mills like that one" should be added at the end.

18 On page 2, line 33, "Blue Trail" should be added to the sentence, "huge log removed."

19 On page 3, Item 2, line 4, archeological terms should be omitted from Agenda and Minutes and
20 revised to "above Tyler Mill Dam."

21 Page 4, line 6, remove "appearing at Mohegan Sun."

22 Page 4, Line 18, put in "noxious" and remove "invasive."

23 Page 5, line 8 should be "as previously voted."

24 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Arsenault second by Commissioner Saunders to**
25 **approve the August 9 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed**
26 **unanimously.**

27 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

28 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

29 1. Recreational Trails Grant Program

1 a. Additional contract work (Part A & B) – report, Trails Committee.

2 Ms. O'Hare said Ferrucci & Waliicki are working on the contracted items and are paid as the
3 projects are approved by the Trails Committee. She said the first invoice is in the process of
4 being approved and paid, and the Trails Committee is working on resolving some issues with the
5 second invoice. Ms. Saunders asked if the cutting of the bittersweet is included in the contract.
6 Ms. O'Hare said this work was in the original contract which has all been paid except for \$2,500
7 which will be paid when the eradicated plants are cut. Ms. Saunders said the bittersweet must
8 be removed and she had requested that the invasive plants cut be re-treated in September
9 after they re-grew.

10 b. Parking lots, entranceway, and kiosks – status

11 Ms. O'Hare said a contractor that has a public bid with the Board of Education quoted a price of
12 \$850 per kiosk and two kiosks are needed. She said the price has to be re-quoted due to design
13 revisions. Ms. O'Hare said she attended a meeting with the Engineering Department and Don
14 Roe, Program Planner, to discuss the base plan for the main entrance at Tyler Mill Preserve.
15 She said Public Works agreed to install gravel at the entrance. They also discussed the
16 possibility of hiring an outside contractor as the work has to be done before February 3, 2013.
17 Ms. O'Hare said the metal sign with rules and regulations will be installed on the front and maps
18 and notices will go on the back protected by a sheet of plexiglass. It will be hinged for access
19 and locked. She said there will be a green corrugated roof used.

20 2. Tree down above Tyler Mill dam

21 Ms. Saunders showed before and after photos of the tree that was cut down above the Tyler
22 Mill dam. She said Wallingford Tree Service did the work with a seven-man crew and supervisor
23 and did an excellent job. Ms. O'Hare reported the site inspection indicated absolutely no sign of
24 erosion or disturbance from the work activities and payment is in process.

25 **B. Fresh Meadow Swamp At Cheshire Road**

26 1. DEEP Recreational Trail Grant application – status

27 Ms. O'Hare said she should be receiving information regarding the status of the Recreational
28 Trail Grant application by September 30.

29 2. Improvements

30 Ms. O'Hare said the eradication project was completed. Further work awaits word on the grant
31 award.

32 3. Mowing considerations

33 Ms. O'Hare said Steve Palermo, Public Works Foreman, agreed to remove the cottonwoods on
34 the corner of Cheshire and Schoolhouse Roads which was done at the "onion field". Ms. O'Hare
35 said she noticed that Karin Burkhardt, Yale University student researcher, had placed research
36 flags in the cottonwoods as part of her study. She then requested the cottonwoods not be cut
37 at the "onion field" area. The mowing of the fields, including the cottonwoods, should not be

1 done until after October 15 to promote insect life cycles and to provide sustenance for
2 migrating birds. Ms. O'Hare has sent notice to Henry McCully, Public Works Director, accordingly.

3 **C. Beseck Meadow**

4 1. Mowing schedule, C. Arsenault – Nothing to report.

5 *Ms. O'Hare will arrange to have Henry McCully, Public Works Director, to have the field mowed.*
6 *Commissioner Arsenault will request the field be mowed after October 15.*

7 2. Bamboo issues

8 Ms. Saunders said she spoke with Dr. Todd Mervosh of the Connecticut Agriculture Experiment
9 Station (CAES), who will be coming either next Monday or Tuesday to look at the bamboo
10 growth at Beseck Meadow. She said either Vice-Chair Heffernon or herself will arrange to meet
11 with him. Dr. Mervosh will be scoping out the situation for test plots. Ms. O'Hare said the
12 property boundaries need to be marked before his work can commence. *The Engineering*
13 *Department has been requested do so.*

14 **D. Invasive Species Eradication**

15 1. Long-term invasive species management program – D. Saunders

16 Ms. Saunders presented a written report on the invasive species update. At Tyler Mill Preserve,
17 she said the area at the bridge parking area that was treated by the contractor she would like
18 re-treated and the Japanese knotweed at the entrance and on the two islands needs to be re-
19 treated as well as the Trees of Heaven. She also reported Public Works mowed the edges of
20 Multiflora rose at Tamarac Swamp Road and left the winterberry. She noted the State asked for
21 information on mugwort and asked us to be on the lookout for *Didymosphenia geminata*. *Ms.*
22 *O'Hare will discuss a treatment plan with All Habitat Services.*

23 Ms. Saunders said the Emerald ash borer people at Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station
24 will be setting up training for the Stewards and other interested persons possibly by the end of
25 September.

26 **E. Volunteer Work Program – report, K. Ryan**

27 Commissioner Ryan said the Eagle Scout is moving forward but is waiting approval from the
28 Boy Scout Council. Ms. O'Hare suggested having a volunteer clean off the erratics.

29 **3. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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

31 Ms. O'Hare read Vice-Chair Heffernon's report prepared for the meeting: the Barefoot Hike was
32 attended by 18 people, and more than half the participants hiked barefoot; there was good
33 information regarding stream beds and types of rock formation; there were 78 participants in
34 the Blue Moon Hike, perfect weather, and many stayed to enjoy the campfire following the hike.
35 Upcoming events: Sept. 22 – mushroom hike with the Lathrops; Oct. 21–Autumn Hike with
36 Mike Cenari; Nov. 10 – Scavenger Hunt; Nov. 19–Explore the Winter Sky with Doug Wolf;
37 Saturday, Oct. 13 – Celebrate Open Space Day at Bertini Park. Ms. Saunders spoke about

1 adding an insect program and ash tree identification hike to the Celebrate Open Space Day
2 program.

3 The Commissioners expressed interest in a second chainsaw training session with the Durham
4 volunteers. *Ms. Saunders will contact Vice-Chair Heffernon regarding the additional chainsaw*
5 *training.*

6 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

7 **C. Farmland Committee – report**

8 Committee Chair Saunders said she is in the process of putting together the mid-season field
9 and map reports. She indicated the lessee of Field 4A does not use rotational grazing, but
10 should. Commissioner Arsenault and Pietras submitted their field monitoring reports to Ms.
11 O'Hare. Mr. Pietras indicated Field 13A & 14A need to re-seeded due to weed growth, and
12 therefore a 10-year lease term is recommended.

13 Ms. O'Hare spoke about the lessee not cultivating a portion of Field 5A. *She will ask the farmer to*
14 *mow the property to restore the field. Ms. O'Hare will notify lessee of Field 9C that he is to*
15 *contact the Park & Recreation Dept. of intended mowing times to insure access to his field.*

16 Ms. O'Hare reported that she has yet to receive proposed revisions to lease area maps, lease
17 documents, or proposed bid qualifications from the Farmland Lease Committee. Documents
18 were to be submitted in pieces over the summer. Maps were to be given to the Engineering
19 Department piecemeal to accommodate its schedule. Chairman Borne asked Ms. Saunders why
20 the proposals have not been submitted. Ms. Saunders indicated that the Committee wants to
21 submit everything all at once and there have been delays. Ms. O'Hare indicated she has asked
22 several times for the suggested bid qualification draft from the Committee's meeting with
23 Purchasing. Chairman Borne expressed concern as the final approved revision package has to
24 be reviewed by the Law and Purchasing Departments prior to being put out to bid. *The*
25 *Committee will submit proposed materials to Ms. O'Hare as soon as possible.*

26 **B. Field 18A – Environmental Review Team(ERT) site walk, Oct. 3**

27 Ms. O'Hare said the ERT site walk will take place on Oct 3 and is open to any Commissioner
28 who wishes to attend. Ms. O'Hare said participants will meet in Town Hall Room 116 at 9:30
29 a.m. for a 45-minute orientation session and then proceed to the site walk. Ms. O'Hare
30 presented a revised map of Field 18A completed previously for the ERT. Ms. Saunders compared
31 a 1934 map of Field 18A to a 1990 map.

32 **5. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE – revisions**

33 **A. Vision Statement, Purpose & Open Space Defined**

34 Chairman Borne tabled this item to the October 11 meeting.

35 Ms. O'Hare said the proposed (Draft) State Plan of Conservation & Development is moving
36 ahead. She said our Open Space Plan fits into this and will be revised using some State criteria.
37 She said there is a public hearing on the proposed State Plan on Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. at the North

1 Haven Public Library. Ms. Saunders said the last day for commentary submitted in writing is
2 October 5, 2012.

3 **6. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

4 **A.** Letter to Commission from Charles Anderson, President, Yankee Territory Coinshooters
5 re: metal detection-collecting guidelines & club newsletter.

6 Ms. O'Hare passed around the letter which was referred to the Commission by John Gawlak,
7 Parks & Recreation Director. Ms. Saunders said State Law doesn't allow digging. She suggested
8 signage stating no removing, disposal or digging on Town property.

9 **B.** National Woodlands, magazine, Summer 2012

10 Ms. O'Hare distributed copies to the Commissioners.

11 **C.** Quinnipiac River Watershed Association (QRWA)– membership

12 Ms. O'Hare said the two representatives of the board of the Association requested a meeting
13 with her and that they are re-grouping and are all-volunteer. They suggested the Commission
14 become QRWA members. Chairman Borne recommended the Commission join this Association.

15 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner Ryan to**
16 **approve an individual membership (\$20) to the Quinnipiac River Watershed**
17 **Association. The motion passed unanimously.**

18 *Ms. O'Hare will process the memberships.*

19 **D.** CFPA's Run & Walk For the Woods, Sept. 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

20 **7. NEXT MEETING – October 11, 2012**

21 **NOT ON AGENDA**

22 Ms. O'Hare reported on Spring Lake and the unpermitted application of some kind of aquatic
23 herbicide which devastated the plant life.

24 **8. ADJOURNMENT**

25 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner Ryan to**
26 **adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

27

28 Respectfully submitted,

29 Cynthia A. Kleist

30 Recording Secretary

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