

1 **WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

2 **REGULAR MEETING**

3 **Thursday, August 14, 2014**

4 **7:00 P.M.**

5 **Town Hall, Basement Conference Room**

6 **45 South Main Street**

7 **Wallingford, Connecticut**

8 **Minutes**

9
10 **Present:** Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Carl Arsenault; Dianne Lendler; Dianne Saunders;
11 Jeff Borne; Tom Pietras; Jim Pyskaty.

12 **Not Present:** Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Commissioner Ken Ryan

13 **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

14 **A. Special Meeting Minutes, July 9, 2014, 9:30 a.m.**

15 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Arsenault second by Commissioner Pietras to**
16 **approve the July 9, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed**
17 **unanimously.**

18 **B. Minutes, Regular Meeting, July 10, 2014**

19 On pg. 2 line 3, Commissioner Saunders said she also asked the students to do a search for sweet
20 scented Indian plantain in the floodplain.

21 Under "Beseck Meadow," pg. 4, it read: "Chair Heffernon said she sent Public Works Director Henry
22 McCully a copy of an article on bamboo and recent legislation and requested the area be cut and
23 sprayed once more". Chair Heffernon said she did not request that Mr. McCully cut or spray the
24 bamboo.

25 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Pyskaty second by Commissioner Borne to**
26 **approve the July 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed**
27 **unanimously.**

28 **2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

29 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

30 1. Remaining planned improvements – report, staff

31 Ms. O'Hare said she contacted Guilford Fence who informed her that the guardrails will be finished
32 on Friday, August 15, 2014. Chair Heffernon clarified saying that the back half of the wooden
33 guardrails were done but the front coming out towards the street was not yet completed.

1 Ms. O'Hare said she spoke with Public Works Director Henry McCully regarding the installation of
2 millings in the horse trailer turnoff area and fix the various puddles with millings.

3 Chair Heffernon said the handicapped and parking sign was installed by the Traffic Division of the
4 Police Dept. and the No Parking signs are up at the Maltby Lane entrance to Tyler Mill and at
5 .Woodhouse Avenue

6 2. Deer population & Preserve management – DEEP report

7 Chair Heffernon said she sent copies of the DEEP report to the Commission. She noted the Report
8 was not all about the deer, but management of the Preserve as well. Chair Heffernon urged the
9 Commission to read the DEEP report on the habitat as well as the Connecticut Audubon Society's
10 2014 *State of the Birds Report*, which was e-mailed to all Commissioners.

11 She spoke about the assessment on Monday in Tyler Mill Preserve with Erik Hansen of Ferrucci &
12 Walicki; and Patrick Comins and Corrie Folsom- O'Keefe of Audubon CT. Chair Heffernon said
13 people from the CT Agricultural Station were also on-site

14 Commissioner Saunders suggested spending money on hiring a person to do a management plan
15 for key areas in Tyler Mill Preserve. Chair Heffernon suggested waiting for recommendations from
16 DEEP.

17 3. Gold Trail

18 Commissioner Saunders said she is waiting for an answer to an email sent by Chair Heffernon to
19 Joe Scania & Lena Nocolai at the Kohler Environmental Center at Choate Rosemary Hall.. She said
20 she needs three weeks' notice for use of the sawmill to purchase wood for the boardwalk. She said
21 the students can be utilized anytime between the end of September to early October.

22 Commissioner Saunders said there has not been an authorization for an expenditure for the
23 materials, (boards and the bolts) for the Gold Trail which would cost around \$1,100.

24 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Arsenault second by Commissioner Pietras to**
25 **approve up to \$1,500 for the purchase of materials for the Gold Trail boardwalk (white**
26 **oak) lumber and hardware and to service the wood if it needs to be planed. The motion**
27 **passed unanimously**

28 4. Stewards of Tyler Mill – Les Merhoff Biodiversity Grant project – update, D. Saunders.

29 Commissioner Saunders said the Stewards tried out the water pump and will try the area at the
30 bridge and remove the fleabanes. She said this will be done this month and the Stewards will
31 also be working at the entrance to Tyler Mill Preserve to remove mugwort. Commissioner
32 Saunders said the Stewards should be planting by the end of August, early September.

33 5. Maltby Lane Road (closed portion) – drainage issue

34 *Ms. O'Hare will write a memo to Public Works requesting they stabilize the dirt pile on the edge of*
35 *Maltby Lane by putting stone on top of the pile so that the Pink Trail entrance can be accessed by*
36 *the Public.*

37 Commissioner Saunders suggested installing a giant stone behind the dirt pile to fill in the hole.

38 6. Emergency trail markers

1 Chair Heffernon said there are no new updates, but the installation of the trail markers is half
2 completed. The Trails Committee is awaiting Commissioner Lathrop's return from vacation to finish
3 the work.

4 **A. Fresh Meadows**

5 Ms. O'Hare said there is a \$12,500 contract with Lenard Engineering. She said she sent off the final
6 details two weeks ago to Lenard Engineering and is waiting for their response. She said the project
7 can either be shelved or a grant can be obtained.

8 Chair Heffernon noted that Eagle Scout Candidate Zachary Blum has put the kiosk up at Fresh
9 Meadows and a trail signs have been ordered for Tessa's Trail.

10 **B. 1250 Whirlwind Hill Road**

11 There were no updates from Commissioner Arsenault. Chair Heffernon spoke about bird activity
12 and noted that Brian Saulis had gone out to the site to observe the birds and turtle nests.

13 Commissioner Saunders suggested using volunteers to cut into the Autumn Olive with Brush-B-
14 Gone.

15 **C. Beseck Meadow – Nothing to report**

16

17 **D. Dibble Edge Road property**

18 Ms. O'Hare said there was a five-lot subdivision approved six years ago. She said lot 5 is being
19 developed and the contractor, while installing a 25-ft. wide driveway, removed trees and rocks and
20 dumped them on Town property. Ms. O'Hare said she went out to the site on Thursday and noted
21 the property owner had removed the piles but made a mess in the back of the property. She said
22 two boundary markers are left and all the others have been removed. She said the Town will re-
23 post the markers every 25 ft. Ms. O'Hare said the contractor cleared more trees and there is a high
24 dirt pile on the property. Ms. O'Hare showed photos of the pile and suggested the Town make the
25 contractor put back the trees and suggested boulders be installed. She suggested the cleared area
26 not be left. Ms. O'Hare said there was a drainage problem in that area that had nothing to do with
27 the development on Dibble Edge Road. She went to the site with Assistant Town Engineer Rob
28 Baltramaitis and noted the water has carved a three-inch gully. She noted that Public Works will
29 install stone (check dam) in the gully.

30 Commissioner Borne said he supported Ms. O'Hare's proposal to have boulders installed to identify
31 the boundaries between the private property and Town property and to have native species of
32 plants installed.

33 *Ms. O'Hare will write a memo directing the property owner to replace the plantings.*

34 Commissioner Saunders spoke about two cases in Branford involving encroachment on Town
35 property and noted there were fines issued by the Town.

36 **E. Invasive Species Eradication**

37 1. Report, D. Saunders

1 Commissioner Saunders said the Stewards of Tyler Mill worked on the cardamine in the floodplain.
2 She showed photos to the Commission. She mentioned two garden club members that have joined
3 the Stewards of Tyler Mill. She said the colds foot has come back on the road and this was
4 removed. Karin Burghardt of the Yale School of Forestry, is a post-doctoral candidate interested in
5 coming to CT to work on the garlic mustard. She said she received an email from the post-doctoral
6 candidate and went out with her to the sites last Saturday. Commissioner Saunders passed around
7 information about Ms. Burghardt to the Commission.

8 Chair Heffernon said over the weekend, she went over behind Wharton Brook Drive and cut down
9 the Purple Loosestrife. She said the beetles are eating the Loosestrife but not at a fast enough
10 pace. She said she cut down the Loosestrife last year at the Northeast Utilities Right-Of-Way and
11 has not seen any re-growth this year. Chair Heffernon also mentioned that she and Emily Picard
12 went out Thursday morning to the Tilcon Property to observe the Purple Loosestrife.

13 Commissioner Saunders said she went over to Vietnam Veterans Park and removed Purple
14 Loosestrife in the back of the soccer field. She said she also did an inventory of the wetlands plants
15 at Vietnam Veterans Park.

16 2. Contracted work (Tyler Mill entranceway area & Trees of Heaven)

17 Commissioner Saunders said she met with a representative of All-Habitat regarding eradicating the
18 Trees of Heaven. She said she spray painted the Trees of Heaven with road marker paint, and
19 numbered them. She said two had fallen down and one was cut in the chainsaw class; there are 11
20 trees total. Commissioner Saunders said the All-Habitat rep GPS's the trees and GPS's the areas
21 which need treatment for the knotweed and goutweed, and as a side, added the mugwort. She
22 said All-Habitat will be adding the mugwort onto their quote. She said she should be able to get a
23 map together this week with the chart and sizes.

24 Ms. O'Hare said the All-Habitat proposal said the knotweed was to be treated in the spring.

25 *Ms. O'Hare will contact All-Habitat regarding the springtime spraying of the knotweed.*

26 *Commissioner Saunders will get two additional quotes this week. There is one quote already, two*
27 *more quotes are needed.*

28 Chair Heffernon said she received a call from Parks & Recreation regarding a bike race on Sept 14,
29 2014 which will go by the entrance to Tyler Mill Preserve and said the racers wanted to set up a
30 water table in the horse trailers parking area from 9 a.m. to noon. The Commission agreed to allow
31 this water table in the horse trails parking area. Commissioner Saunders will make the horseback
32 riders aware that this event is happening.

33 3. PROPERTY ACQUISITION - Nothing to report

34 4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM

35 A. Bid – Field 5A & Field 7A –status

36
37 Chair Heffernon said the bid documents were sent to purchasing on Thursday. Ms. O'Hare did the
38 map attachments.

39 *Chair Heffernon will get Ms. O'Hare a copy of the bid document.*

1 Ms. O'Hare said she drew the gates on the pasture maps for Field 7A and noted this field also
2 needs a gate. Ms. O'Hare said on the hayfield, a gate is not needed and the word "gate" was
3 eliminated on the map. Ms. O'Hare will deliver the maps on Friday.

4 **B. Farmland Committee** – Nothing to report

5 **C. Property issues**

6 1. Field 3A – encroachment, recent trespass damage

7 Commissioner Saunders she piled the concrete blocks which had been dumped on Field 3A
8 which is located on Stonybrook and Williams Road.

9 2. Field 2A – fence & signage , recent trespass damage

10 Commissioner Saunders suggested this item be removed from the agenda for the time
11 being because she is still waiting for an answer from the Water & Sewer Divisions.

12 **5. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

13 **A. Property owner outreach – discussion** – Nothing to report

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15 **6. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE**

16 **A. Discussion regarding goals**

17 Chair Heffernon asked Commissioner Borne to co-ordinate a Plan of Development. Chair Heffernon
18 said she will work with Commissioner Borne. Ms. O'Hare suggested using \$6,000 from the Open
19 Space budget for maps.

20 *Commissioner Borne will work with Chair Hefferon on the Open Space Plan.*

21 **7. OTHER TOPICS**

22 Commissioner Saunders spoke about a photo of wood turtles at the expanded parking lot at Tyler
23 Mill Preserve.

24 **8. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

25 **A. Canoe launch accesses-** at Community Lake and Fireworks Island –report

26 Ms. O'Hare show photos she took of the canoe launch, the sign and trail at Community Lake and
27 Fireworks Island.

28 **B. NRCS document**, "Productive Lands, Healthy Environment", received 8/1/14 - distributed
29 by Ms. O'Hare.

30 **C. CACIWC newsletter**, "The Habitat", Summer 2014-distributed to the Commission.

31 **D. CT Audubon Society** – "State of the Birds" - emailed by Chair Heffernon.

32 **E. Other correspondence**

33 Ms. O'Hare said she received a letter from people on Liney Hall Lane regarding a letter from the
34 Conservation Commission in 2001 about open space in that area. She said the people wanted to
35 be made up-to-date on the plans. Commissioner Borne suggested looking at the open space
36 plan to identify where the property is in that area.

37 *Commissioner Borne, will collaborate with Ms. O'Hare in drafting a response to the property*
38 *owner.*

1 Commissioner Saunders spoke about early successional and site visits. She said one of the
2 Stewards' husbands who is the co-ordinator for the Middlefield Beagle Club near Beseck
3 Meadow, has offered to have the Commission visit the rabbit habitat. Commissioner Borne
4 suggested the visit take place the second week of September, possibly Sept. 21 or Sept. 28.

5 Commissioner Arsenault spoke about who had attended a training session through Covert Co-
6 operator which is done through Yale University at one of their properties in the northwest part
7 of the state. *Chair Heffernon will look into this and email the Commissioners.*

8 Chair Heffernon spoke about trash in the turn-around bus area near Tyler Mill Preserve on
9 Tamarac Swamp Road.

10 **9. NEXT MEETING – September 11, 2014**

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12

10. ADJOURNMENT

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**MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Pyskaty second by Commissioner Pietras to
14 adjourn the Meeting at 8:53 p.m. The motion passed unanimously**

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Respectfully submitted,

16

Cynthia A. Kleist

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Recording Secretary

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