

1 **DRAFT**

2 WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

3 **SPECIAL MEETING**

4 Thursday, December 12, 2013

5 6:30 p.m.

6 Town Hall, Basement Conference Room

7 45 South Main Street

8 Wallingford, CT

9 **MINUTES**

10

11 **PRESENT:** Chairman Jeffrey Borne; Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon; Commissioners Ken Ryan;
12 Dianne Saunders; John Lathrop; Jim Pyskaty; Tom Pietras; Carl Arsenault; Erin O'Hare,
13 Environmental and Natural Resources Planner; Kathryn Urban-Meade, Karin Burghardt and Jeff
14 Smith, Yale University students.

15 **NOT PRESENT:** Commissioner Dianne Lendler.

16 Chairman Borne called the Special Meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

17 **1. PRESENTATION – Pollinator research on Town Fields –** Kathryn Urban-Meade,
18 Yale University student

19 Kathryn Urban-Meade, gave a presentation on bee pollinator research, notably how changing
20 land usage affects the community structure of the native pollinators. She said she had
21 conducted research over the summer in six fields in Wallingford and seven fields in the
22 Eastford, Ashford, Pomfret areas. Ms. Urban-Meade said she studied native wild bees of which
23 there are 4,000 species in the United States and 70 to 100 species in Connecticut. She said
24 many of the bees are wild pollinators and are effective for crops and native flowers and
25 compliment the actions of honeybees. Ms. Urban-Meade presented her collection of pinned
26 bees and said she will be donating the collected bees to the Peabody Museum in New Haven.

27 She said she collected 1,400 bees this summer with a net and scoop them into an envelope ,
28 and identified the bees, during different times of the day in areas that were more isolated and
29 surrounded by forest in an attempt to catch as many species of bees as possible. She also
30 recorded what flowers the bees were on when she captured them.

31 Ms. Urban-Meade spoke about the bumble and carpenter bees she collected on Whirlwind Hill
32 Road, Field 1B, Besack Meadow (Field 20A), Fields 4C, 7A, 16 which is the onion field, 6C and 7A

1 and presented samples of the various bees she had collected. She presented a graph from June,
2 July and August and noted that the bee diversity increased as the forest cover increased, and in
3 the less forested areas she found smaller sized bees.

4 Ms. Burghardt said most of the bees are not migratory and have a forestry range of between
5 200 to 500 meters. She noted that more carpenter and nesting bees were found in Wallingford
6 than in the other areas that were also studied. She showed super close up photos taken by
7 photographer Sam Droege of the some of the collected bees.

8 Chairman Borne asked the students if they would consider doing a community outreach
9 program incorporating their studies in Wallingford .

10 *Ms. O'Hare will touch bases with the students regarding this Community Outreach program.*

11 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

12 **A. Minutes, Nov. 14, 2013**

13 The following amendments were made:

14 Page 6, line 28, "Field 12A" was omitted.

15 Page 7, line 22, the sentence was fragmented and read : "Engineer Dept. boundary markers."

16 Page 10, line 6, should be "Invasive species" not "Intensive species"

17 Page 11, line 23, should read "Vice-Chair Heffernon and John Gawlak" not Commissioner
18 Lathrop.

19 Page 12, line 10 should be crossed out.

20 Page 3, line 16, should read "underlaved" not "underplayed."

21 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Vice-Chair Heffernon to**
22 **approve the Nov. 14, 2013 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed**
23 **unanimously.**

24 **B. Minutes, Special Meeting, Nov. 25, 2013**

25 The following amendments were made:

26 Page 1, item 2, Vice-Chair Heffernon was not in attendance at this meeting.

27 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Ryan to accept**
28 **the Nov. 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.**

29 **C. Discussion re: Minutes**

30 The Commission discussed the Minutes and the guidelines.

1 Ms. O'Hare brought up problems with the line numbers appearing differently on different
2 versions of the documents which is confusing when amendments to the Minutes are made.

3 **3. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

4 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

5 1. DEP Recreational Trails Grant Program – parking lots, entranceways, and
6 kiosks.

7 a. Required permitting – status

8 Ms. O'Hare said the PZC approved the parking lot at the Tyler Mill Preserve entranceway with
9 no conditions.

10 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Saunders that**
11 **the Commission return to the original plan with the five parking spaces, since that**
12 **condition was removed by PZC. The motion passed unanimously.**

13 Vice-Chair Heffernon said the Tyler Mill Preserve entranceway work should begin within the
14 next few weeks.

15 Ms. O'Hare said the design for the Tyler Mill Preserve entranceway sign was sent to the
16 Purchasing Department. She said four bids were requested and the signs in front of the kiosks
17 are being worked on. Ms. O'Hare said the boulders, the wheel stops and guardrails have been
18 ordered.

19 The Commission agreed to one edge stripe on the Tyler Mill Preserve Entranceway sign.

20 *Ms. O'Hare will order the two signs next week to be installed at the Tyler Mill Preserve*
21 *entranceways at Tyler Mill Road and at the Tamarac Swamp Road entranceway.*

22 2. Footbridges - update, D. Saunders

23 *Ms. O'Hare will forward the design for the Gold Trail to Commissioner Saunders who will be*
24 *getting a quote to approximate the cost.*

25 3. Forest Edge Habitat Project – D. Saunders

26 a. Draft letter to DEEP

27 Commissioner Saunders reported she had not done the draft letter yet.

28 b. Other- Not taken up

29

30 4. Pink Trail crossing – M. Heffernon

31 Vice-Chair Heffernon indicated no new updates.

32 5. Gold Trail – discussed under "2" – "Footbridges"

33

34 **B. Fresh Meadows**

1 1. Trails Program – status

2 Chairman Borne said Ms. O'Hare sent a letter to Mayor Dickinson discussing the role of the
3 Commission regarding Fresh Meadows which he had approved beforehand. He said he will be
4 scheduling a meeting with the Mayor shortly.

5 Ms. O'Hare said the consultant on this project is on hold. She said \$6,600 has been spent and
6 an additional \$6,000 will be spent on the final drawing and budget which will wrap up the
7 project. She recommended stone dust be used on the trails.
8 Commissioner Saunders suggested no millings be used.

9 2. Mowing

10 Ms. O'Hare said the requested mowing has not yet occurred except on Field 4C.

11 **C. Ferguson Woods – signage**

12 Vice-Chair Heffernon said there is already signage in place at both entrances that state: "No
13 Motorized Vehicles," and requested this item be removed from the agenda.

14 **D. 1250 Whirlwind Hill Road – mowing – No new updates.**

15 **E. Fireworks Island – signage**

16 Ms. O'Hare said Don Roe, Program Planner and the Engineering Dept. want the Commission to
17 give input on the location of the signage indicating DEEP's participation in the purchase of the
18 Beaumont property regarding Phase III of the Quinnipiac Linear Trail. She said the signage is a
19 requirement of the DEEP and must be installed. Ms. O'Hare suggested the sign will be installed
20 where Phase II meets Phase III, under the Wilbur Cross Parkway.

21 Commissioner Saunders suggested the signage be placed further onto the trail because of snow
22 being thrown by plows from the parkway.

23 *The Commission agreed to allow Ms. O'Hare to pick the final location for the sign installation in*
24 *this vicinity.*

25 **F. Invasive Species Eradication**

26 Commissioner Saunders said the Stewards of Tyler Mill have been digging up the rhizomes of
27 Japanese knotweed at the Northford Road entrance to the Tyler Mill Preserve and down at the
28 bridge. She said this work will continue through the winter.

29 **G. Bamboo**

30 1. Beseck Meadow

31 Vice-Chair Heffernon spoke about the letter received from the adjacent property owner and
32 discussed the bamboo encroachment problem at Beseck Meadow and the possible removal by
33 the Town.

1 *Ms. O'Hare will formally request the Engineering Department survey the property line.*

2 **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

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

4 1. Bid (22 hayfields) – 19 fields awarded

5 Commissioner Saunders said these bids were completed.

6 2. Proposal for bid waiver (4 hayfields)

7 The Commissioners discussed the mowing of Field 13A before July 4, 2014 as needed because
8 no farmers want to rent it.

9 Commissioner Saunders reported on possible lessees regarding a bid waiver proposed for Field
10 8B, 9B and 9C.

11 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner Pyskaty for**
12 **the Commission to recommend a bid waiver for Fields 8B, 9B and 9C to the Town**
13 **Council. The motion passed unanimously.**

14 *Ms. O'Hare will prepare the bid waiver and forward it to the Mayor for consideration at the*
15 *January Town Council Meeting.*

16 3. Field 5A and Field 7A

17 The proposed bid documents are being drafted and Commissioner Saunders, as Chair of the
18 Committee, indicated she will forward them to Ms. O'Hare as soon as possible for review.

19 **B. Farmland Committee**

20 1. Monitoring reports – discussed at the Nov. 14, 2013 Meeting

21 2. Draft proposed bid documents for Field 5A and Field 7A – discussed
22 above.

23 At this time, Chairman Borne took the agenda in the following order:

24 **5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Nominations**

25 The Commission nominated Vice-Chair Mary Heffernon as Chairman and Commissioner Lathrop
26 as Vice-Chairman.

27 Commissioner Saunders suggested to Chairman Borne that the position of Committee Chair Point
28 Person be added to a proposed Land Acquisition Committee.

29 The Commission will elect officers at their January 9, 2014 Meeting.

1 **C. Property Issues**

2 1. Field 3A – encroachment

3 Regarding the encroachment matter, Commissioner Saunders said she will mark the back of the
4 trees on the Town side of the property when weather appropriate. She also spoke about a
5 person driving onto Field 3A and the dumping of concrete pieces onto the field. She has
6 contacted Land Trust President David Ellis to install a gate on Trust land.

7 Ms. O'Hare indicated the removal of trees and shrubs also constituted a zoning violation as
8 some of the land affected is Association open space land.

9 *Ms. O'Hare will contact Kacie Costello, Town Planner and write a letter to the abutting property*
10 *owners.*

11 Chairman Borne suggested utility pole barriers be erected on the property line and trees be
12 planted on the Town side of the line.

13 2. 1390 Whirlwind Hill Rd. – storage of materials by Public Works Dept.

14 Ms. O'Hare said she wrote a memo on this issue to Mayor Dickinson regarding this area, which
15 is a lease maintenance area, , but has not as of yet received a response.

16 3. Field 2A – fence & signage

17 Commissioner Saunders said she spoke with Rick Vanski of the Water & Sewer Department
18 regarding this issue of trespassing and holes in the fences.

19 4. Field 7D – gate

20 Commissioner Saunders said she completed the plan for the gate and will give the dimensions
21 to John Gawlak, Parks & Recreation Director, next Monday.

22 **D. Mowing**

23 1. Request for Quotes – Not taken up

24 2. Public Works - mowing

25 Commissioner Saunders said Public Works mowed part of Field 4C. She said she will mark the
26 autumn olive this Saturday on Field 4C and also on Cooke Road with caution tape to identify the
27 plants for Public Works to be mowed.

28 *Ms. O'Hare will write Public Works requesting clarification on why the autumn olive is not being*
29 *mowed in Field 4C and ask again for their removal.*

30 **6. ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES - Not taken up**

31 **7. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE – revisions**

1 **A. Revisions:** "Vision Statement", "Purpose", & "Open Space Defined" – Not taken up

2 **8. Correspondence**

3 **A. Dog Park Proposal,** off Quinnipiac Street – status

4 Vice-Chair Heffernon said the plan is progressing.

5 **B. CFPA – Annual Fund**

6 The Commission will not be giving to the Annual Fund, just the to the membership.

7 **C. CFPA - "News & Notes" – Fall 2013** – distributed to the Commission

8 **D. Environmental Review Team Report – 995 East Center Street properties – copies**

9 –The report copies were distributed to the Commission.

10 Commissioner Pietras noted the report title should have been called Williams Farm.

11 Chairman Borne suggested editing the title to read "Williams Farm."

12 *Commissioner Saunders will give Warren Williams a copy of the report.*

13 Vice-Chair Heffernon spoke about an email from John Gawlak regarding people using leaf
14 blowers to clear leaves off the trails at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden. She also asked
15 the Commission to participate in CT. Trails Day on June 7 & 8 with the Land Trust. The
16 Commission discussed ideas.

17 Commissioner Saunders spoke about a January 16 conference in Wellesley, Mass. about
18 managing landscapes.

19 **9. NEXT MEETING** – January 9, 2014.

20 **10. ADJOURMENT**

21 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Heffernon second by Commissioner Pyskaty to**
22 **adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

23

24 Respectfully submitted,

25 Cynthia A. Kleist

26 Recording Secretary

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