

WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, May 21, 2014, 2:30 p.m.
Basement Conference Room, Town Hall
45 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT

MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the Wallingford Conservation Commission was held in the field at 82 Anderson Road on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, 5:45 p.m. for two purposes, as noticed, presented in entries #1 and #2, below.

PRESENT: Chair Mary Heffernon, Vice Chair John Lathrop, Ken Ryan, Tom Pietras, Dianne Saunders, Jim Pyskaty, Mayor William Dickinson, Jr., Janis Small, Corporation Counsel, and Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner

Chair Heffernon convened the Special Meeting at the 82 Anderson Road property at 5:50 p.m..

1.) Review of site conditions on Town property within Tyler Mill Preserve

Owner and resident of 82 Anderson Road, Victoria Herbst, and her father, John Herbst, were present for this item on the agenda. Ms. Herbst welcomed everyone to the Arabian horse stable facility which was acquired just over a year ago. A tour of the facility was conducted to orient members as to the use and different facilities on the site.

The roughly 2-acre encroachment area of Tyler Mill Preserve was then walked to observe site conditions - accessed directly from the 82 Anderson Road property which it abuts. It is currently in use as pasture, the forest having been cleared some years ago except for several mature trees (100 feet tall) growing sprinkled around the open grassy area. The Town-owned area was observed to be bordered on two sides by pasture (currently in use) and two sides by forest. The far corner was observed to be wet meadow. The area was fenced. Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner, documented site conditions with photographs. Commissioners Pietras and Saunders indicated that, should the area remain in pasture use, better pasture would be possible with the proper amendments applied to the soil.

Ms. Herbst indicated she needed the subject pastureland area to augment her pastureland area for the horse business and would ideally like to lease the land from the Town. Mayor Dickinson indicated the owners had submitted a letter to this effect to the Town asking consideration of an offer of \$1,000 rental fee per year.

All present perused different maps of the area provided by Janis Small, Corporation Counsel. Attorney Small indicated she would obtain a proper survey map from Juliano Associates.

Chair Heffernon indicated to the Herbsts that the Commission would discuss the matter at its next meeting on June 12 and submit its recommendation to the Mayor's Office.

The Herbsts, Mayor Dickinson, and Attorney Small left the meeting at this time.

2.) Consideration of request for ecological research use (Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies) proposed to be conducted on Town property at two locations: Fresh Meadows, Cheshire Road, and Beseck Meadow, off Powderhill Road

Ms. O'Hare indicated to the Commission that a Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies student, Jeffrey Smith, seeks permission from the Commission to conduct research in the fields at Fresh Meadow and Beseck Meadow concerning spiders and their prey. She indicated he has recently obtained permission from the Mayor and John Gawlak, Director, Parks & Recreation, in this regard. As there is a timing issue with the need to start the research, the Commission's approval could not wait until the next Regular Meeting, June 12.

The Commission unanimously approved the research use.

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner