

**WALLINGFORD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Thursday, September 15, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Basement Conference Room, Town Hall**

**45 South Main Street, Wallingford, Connecticut**

**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mary Heffernon; Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Commissioners Dianne Saunders; Dianne Lendler; Tom Pietras; Mark Ceneri; Jeff Borne; Carl Arsenault; Erin O'Hare Environmental Planner;

**NOT PRESENT:** Commissioners Jim Pyskaty;

Chair Heffernon called the Meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Minutes, Regular Meeting, Aug. 11, 2016**

**MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Ceneri second by Vice-Chair Lathrop to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2016 as amended:**

Commissioner Saunders was not present at the August 11, 2016 meeting.

Page 1 should read "Caryl" Ryan; On page 1 D. Saunders – no report because she was not at the Meeting. Page 4 should say "Linear Trail". Page 3, should be "forwarded" not "forward".

**2. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

**A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

1. Stewards of Tyler Mill – report D. Saunders

Commissioner Saunders said one Steward worked on replacing a plank the footbridge on the Yellow Trail which had burned; Commissioner Lendler said she did work on the Red Trail. Commissioner Saunders reported on some dumping at Tyler Mill. She also spoke about putting the numbers on the trails.

2. Entranceway – knotweed treatment

Commissioner Saunders said Contractor Todd Mervosh treated the knotweed at the entrance to Tyler Mill and on both islands and also the phragmites with her oversight.

**B. Fresh Meadows**

1. Trail system program – status

Ms. O'Hare said the Town Council approved the grant contract at its August 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. She said the Wetlands permit was submitted by Friday at 5 p.m. the ZBA variance application form must be submitted.

Ms. O'Hare said later on the Council will have to appropriate the \$56,000 match but the bid must be sent out first. She said she will contact Lenard Engineering to assist with the bid contract.

## 2. Mowing

Ms. O'Hare said Public Works spread out the mowing between the sections except for the Butterfly Meadow. She said she would prefer this Meadow be mowed in November. The Commission spoke about possibly removing the autumn olive trees on the former Cuneo homesite area on Sunday, Oct. 9.

**C. Beseck Meadow** – second cutting – Not discussed.

**D. Beseck Mountain** – recent use issues

Chair Heffernon spoke about the trespassing. She said the area was cleaned up by the Police. Chair Heffernon read a memo from CFPA staff about the liability of ATV use and also suggesting that stumps used for a seating area be removed and that a wildlife camera be installed in the area. The Commission spoke about possibly using deer repellent to discourage trespassers.

**E. Ferguson Woods** – trash issue

Chair Heffernon said students from Vocational Science cleaned up the area.

Ms. O'Hare spoke about the map on the Tyler Mill/Quinnipiac River/Ferguson Woods trail system brochures done by SCROG. Commissioner Saunders discussed issues with the color of the trails being mixed up. The Commission agreed the brochures should be corrected. *Ms. O'Hare will contact the people who made the brochures noting the errors.*

**F. Other properties**

Commissioner Saunders indicated that Kate Moran of CTDEEP finished the Acoustic Bat Survey at Tyler Mill Preserve which took place during the overnight periods from June 13-16, 2016.

Commissioner Saunders said five sites in Tyler Mill Preserve were studied with good results and four species were confirmed. She said the over 452 bats were counted near Woodhouse Avenue near the north side of Moss Rock.

Commissioner Saunders said the meadow had 119 bats and the Red Trail at 15 bats and the stream had 17 over four nights. Commissioner Saunders noted there were no bats near the Dam area. She said the Silver, Red and Hoary bats are of a special concern in Connecticut.

Commissioner Saunders said there was a public hearing on the Northford Road bridge after obtaining State money. She said there are a lot of environmental issues at the River there and asked for a meeting with Town officials before work begins in 2017.

Commissioner Saunders said she is concerned with the staging of equipment noting she would like to see equipment staged on the road. Ms. O'Hare indicated it was in the Preliminary Design phase.

## 3. PROPERTY ACQUISITION/PRESERVATION

## **A. Sandplains – Critical Habitat – status**

Ms. O'Hare said a Contractor for a potential buyer and someone who was doing research on Covanta spoke with her this past Monday about the sandplain site. She said they are looking at possible environmental impacts. She said she earlier had sent a memo to the Mayor regarding Allnex. She said the Mayor told her he had not met with them yet. Chair Heffernon spoke about Allnex's Community Day on Oct. 15, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## **B. Other**

### **4. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

#### **A. Field 19A, Whirlwind Hill Road – required mowing**

Commissioner Saunders said this field was not mowed. *Ms. O'Hare and Commissioner Saunders will ask Triangle A Ranch to mow this field.*

**B. Farmland Committee** – monitoring reports and lease draft for proposed field – Commissioner Saunders indicated there was nothing to report

### **5. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

#### **A. Celebrate Open Space Day**, hiking in Tri-Mountain State Park, Saturday, Oct 22, 2016

The Commission decided on a 10 a.m. start time for the Oct. 22 hike and Commissioner Ceneri will lead the hike. It was noted the CFPA is conducting a hike on the same trail on Oct. 15.

#### **B. Natural Resource Conservation Fair, Southwest Conservation District**, Oct. 4&5

Chair Heffernon said this is a two-day Fair, but the Commission can attend for one day. She asked the Commission for their input. Vice-Chair Lathrop suggested the Commission set up a table. Chair Heffernon said Oct.5 is the date open to the public and said she would attend. The Commission agreed to have a table at the Fair for one day on Oct. 4 and will cost \$15 to attend. Commissioner Ceneri will bring his natural history collection.

### **6. OTHER TOPICS**

#### **A. Commissioner Ryan memorial**

Chair Heffernon said there is nothing new to report.

### **7. PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT – Implementation Committee, M. Heffernon**

Chair Heffernon said she sent the list of the action elements the members last Spring. She said the Commission will discuss these ideas at the next Conservation Commission meeting.

### **8. OPEN SPACE PLAN – mapping, staff**

Ms. O'Hare said she and Don Roe of Program Planning asked SCRCOG to prepare a map and a portion of which shows Wallingford and the area towns with preserved open space and Land Trust properties. She asked the Commission for ideas of what should be included on this map for the Wallingford Open Space Plan. Ms. O'Hare will provide more information next month and a draft map.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS

**A. South Central Regional Council of Governments – Recreational Trail Maps – Discussed above under 2.F., "Other Properties".**

**B. CACIWC – membership dues**

Ms. O'Hare spoke about the CACIWC conference on Nov. 5.

**Motion: A motion by Commissioner Borne second by Vice-Chair Lathrop to approve the CACIWC membership dues of \$55. The motion passed unanimously.**

**C. CFPA magazine – *CT Woodlands*, Fall 2016 – discussed.**

**D. QRWA Association – membership dues**

**Motion: A motion by Commissioner Borne seconded by Commissioner Saunders to pay the QRWA Association membership dues. The motion passed unanimously.**

**E. Memorandum from Law Dept. re: Public Act No. 16-208 – (operation of a dirt bike, ATV, mini-motorcycles) dated Aug. 18**

Ms. O'Hare went over the memorandum. She this matter would have to be brought up with the Ordinance Committee to have this Public Act. No. 16-208 enforced locally. Commissioner Saunders went on the record to attempt to have this Public Act enforced locally.

**F. CACIWC magazine, *The Habitat*, Summer 2016 – distributed.**

## 10. NEXT MEETING – October 13, 2016

Commissioner Saunders submitted her \$60 receipt related to stream corridor work completed this summer to Ms. O'Hare.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Commissioner Ceneri second by Vice-Chair Lathrop to adjourn the Meeting at 8: 43  
The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia A. Kleist

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Recording Secretary