

1
2 **SPECIAL MEETING**

3 **Thursday, September 17, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**
4 **Town Hall Basement Conference Room**
5 **45 South Main Street, Wallingford, Connecticut**
6

7 **MINUTES**
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11 **PRESENT:** Chair Mary Heffernon; Vice-Chair John Lathrop; Commissioners Dianne Saunders; Tom Pietras;
12 Carl Arsenault; Erin O'Hare, Environmental and Natural Resources Planner.

13 **NOT PRESENT:** Ken Ryan; Jim Pyskaty; Jeff Borne; Dianne Lendler.

14 Chair Heffernon called the Special Meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

15 **1. PROPERTY USE REQUESTS**

16 **A. Chipmunk Parasite Study, Tyler Mill Preserve**

17 Chair Heffernon said Dennis Richardson, Ph.D., has been given permission to conduct the study. She spoke
18 about the recent meeting she had with Professor Richardson and Mayor Dickinson. She said Mr.
19 Richardson, Ph.D., has been given permission to take five chipmunks per season over a three-year period
20 and is to give a report to the Commission after two years, and the Commission is to review this after one
21 year. She noted that the permit can be revoked at any time.

22 **B. Trail Proposal, Neal open space property, Scard Road/George Washington Trail –status**

23 Chair Heffernon said Mayor Dickinson said this project is on hold because of what he cited as a backlog of
24 other projects. Chair Heffernon said she met with the Mayor to discuss this trail proposal who agreed to
25 allow the project to move forward. Ms. O'Hare said she visited to site to look at the parking. She said
26 maple saplings have overgrown the former parking/driveway area. She suggested removing the saplings or
27 making a parking area out of a section of Field 19A which is located across the street when the lease term
28 comes up. *Ms. O'Hare will give Chair Heffernon the file materials for the students use.*

29 **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

30 **A. Minutes, Regular Meeting, August 13, 2015**

31 Chair Heffernon said on bottom of page 1 before trail proposal to add "with the approval of John Gawlak".

32 On page 2, the bottom of paragraph should read: "get the topographic map of the area to Katherine
33 Orsini".

34 Page 3, next to Neal open space property, should read "Whisk Key Wind" not Wisk Key

SPECIAL MEETING

Wallingford Conservation Commission
Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015

1 Wind.

2 Page 4, "Other Properties", second property, the wording should be included that the "man who vacuums
3 the yellow jacket bees from their nests and uses their venom, services are not necessary at this time"

4 Page 4 line 19, should read: "She and Commissioner Borne spoke to the family".

5 On the bottom of page 5 should read the stream corridor became woody on the northern end of Field 2A,
6 not on Maltby Lane.

7 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Arsenault second by Commissioner Pietras to approve**
8 **the Minutes as amended. Vote: Unanimous.**

9 **3. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

10 **A. Tyler Mill Preserve**

11 1. Stewards of Tyler Mill, D. Saunders

12 Commissioner Saunders presented her report. She said there was a lot of trail trimming this month. She
13 said the Stewards finished clearing all the storm damage on five trails with Commissioners Lendler and
14 Arsenault. She said work is continuing on the entrance to Tyler Mill Preserve to cut down weeds with the
15 weed wacker. She said the Stewards opened up the Yellow, Green and White Trails. She said she sent
16 Chair Heffernon photos. Commissioner Saunders said they have enough wood but need screws and bolts
17 to rebuild the footbridge leading to the Yellow Trail. She said the work will be done the end of Sept. and
18 asked permission to spend up to \$50 on screws and bolts. Chair Heffernon suggested going out to take a
19 look at the beginning of the Green and White Trails. The Commission decided to visit the site on Tuesday
20 at 6 p.m. at Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park.

21 **Motion: Vice-Chair Lathrop made a motion to appropriate up to \$50 for screws and bolts for**
22 **the footbridge at the trail head. Commissioner Pietras seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

23 2. Yellow Trail trail head – Discussed above.

24 3. Restoration of portions of Green Trail & White Trail – Discussed above.

25 4. Main entranceway area

26 a. Proposed painting of kiosk, guardrails and posts

27 Commissioner Saunders said the ultraviolet light is disintegrating the kiosk, the posts, along with the new
28 wooden guardrails. She said the Water Division will install a tan colored fence at the beginning of the Lilac
29 Trail and suggested the Commission use the same color on the above listed improvement. She said this
30 project would be done in September.

31 b. Eradication of Japanese knotweed – contract status

32 Commissioner Saunders said she and Todd Mervosh, weed scientist, looked at the knotweed in several
33 areas. She said she sent Todd Mervosh photos of the yellowing knotweed. Ms. O'Hare indicated he had
34 gotten the contract for the eradication work.

35 c. Horse trailer parking signage

SPECIAL MEETING

Wallingford Conservation Commission
Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015

1 Chair Heffernon said she has the sign in the car and will drop it off at the Police Station on Friday.

2 **B. Fresh Meadows**

3 1. Kiosk restoration

4 Chair Heffernon said Eagle Scout Candidate Zachary Blum restored the kiosk.

5 2. Butterfly Meadow – plant inventory – staff

6 Chair Heffernon said Ms. O'Hare made an inventory of plants at the Butterfly Meadow. She circulated the
7 inventory list.

8 Commissioner Saunders noted the Pink Trail head sign near Maltby Lane was vandalized and smashed to
9 pieces. Vice-Chair Lathrop suggested installing another trail head sign. Commissioner Saunders suggested
10 using plywood for the new sign which she said would be difficult to split and vandalize. Commissioner
11 Saunders said she could make the plywood trail head sign.

12 **C. Field 4C, Whirlwind Hill Road – contract status, staff**

13 Ms. O'Hare said All-Habitat Services was awarded the low-bid contract to eradicate the Autumn Olive. She
14 said a Fecon mower will be used and paint the stumps. Ms. O'Hare said this work should be done before
15 Oct. 10. *The Commission directed Ms. O'Hare to have the White Barns lean-to repaired regarding Field 4A.*

16 **D. Beseck Meadow – dumping, staff**

17 Ms. O'Hare said this dumping was reported by Commissioner Arsenault. She said she sent a letter to the
18 six property owners which included a copy of the bamboo statute. Arsenault said last Sunday he was
19 hiking in the area and found brush dumped on Town property by one of the abutting property owners.
20 Ms. O'Hare said the Community Police representative was also sent a copy of her letter.

21 Ms. O'Hare reported about another dumping on one of the paper streets in the area.

22 **E. Beseck Meadow- mowing**

23 Ms. O'Hare said she contacted Henry McCully regarding the mowing. Commissioner Arsenault said a Jay
24 Brown was mowing the Meadow and has one-third of the Meadow mowed.

25 **F. Volunteer project**

26 Commissioner Saunders said she had two volunteers for clean-up at Tamarac Swamp Road Circle and the
27 "Lollipop Trail" turnaround at Vietnam Vets Memorial Park.

28 **G. Other properties**

29 **4. PROPERTY ACQUISITION/PRESERVATION**

30 **A. 75 Tyler Mill Road property- status**

SPECIAL MEETING

1 Ms. O'Hare said the Town now owns this piece of property, but no-one can enter it until the Town cleans it
2 up.

3 **B. Other property**

4 Chair Heffernon said she and the Mayor will meet with the family next Monday to discuss the status.

5 **5. FARMLAND LEASE PROPERTIES PROGRAM**

6 **A. Lease field conditions (36 fields) & consideration of certain lease requirements**

7 – staff

8 Ms. O'Hare said 33 of the 36 fields are leased. She passed around her status report. Commissioner
9 Saunders noted that the upper half of Field 1C will be mowed. Ms. O'Hare spoke about Field 1D and said
10 farmer's lease will end in December 2016. She said the farmer recently applied glyphosate to the entire
11 field for re-seeding this fall. Ms. O'Hare will contact the lessee regarding the required mowing of Field 2A.

12 As discussion of Ms. O'Hare's report contained many detailed issues, Chair Heffernon suggested the
13 Farmland Lease Committee meet with Ms. O'Hare to discuss current issues and ideas for the next leases
14 separately.

15 **B. Field 7A – second access and other issues**

16 Ms. O'Hare said the choices are to let the plants grow back or revise the lease to add this second access.
17 Commissioner Saunders suggested adding a second access because of safety concerns. Ms. O'Hare said
18 she visited Field 7A and noticed an area has been mowed by the farmer. Commissioner Saunders said the
19 point of the leases was to have the farmers mow so a field would not be lost to nature. Chair Heffernon
20 recommended the Farmland Lease Committee discuss this at Field 7A with the farmer. Ms. O'Hare also
21 noted that the lessee for Field 5A needs three months' notice to conduct conservation mowing of CMA-3
22 (area around the pond). The Commission will discuss mowing Field 5A on next month's agenda.

23 *Farmland Lease Committee Chair Saunders will arrange a meeting soon with the lessee, the Committee*
24 *and Ms. O'Hare at Field 7A to discuss the various items raised in the report.*

25 **C. Field 4B –new access**

26 Ms. O'Hare said a new gate was installed on the back of Field 4B on Scard Road and noted the lease
27 agreement was violated as this unpermitted access crosses non-lease land and wetlands. *Ms. O'Hare will*
28 *follow-up on this.*

29 **D. Field 9B – fencing & sign**

30 Ms. O'Hare said said Public Works was asked two months ago to re-install the split rail fence and signage
31 which was removed for the turn-around drive which has not been done.

32 **E. Field 14A – encroachment status**

33 Nothing new to report as the Engineering Dept. review is awaited.

SPECIAL MEETING

Wallingford Conservation Commission
Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015

1 **F. Farmland Committee**

2 Commissioner Saunders reminded the Committee members to perform their monitoring visits.

3 **6. PUBLIC OUTREACH**

4 **A. Farm to Table Community Supper**, sponsored by Wallingford First United Methodist
5 Church, 941 Old Rock Hill Road, Sept. 26, 5:30 p.m.

6 Chair Heffernon said there are approximately 100 people signed up for the Farm to Table Community
7 Supper. She said she was asked if the Commission could provide an information table.

8 **7. OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE** – J. Borne & staff – No Report.

9 **8. PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT – report** – M. Heffernon

10 Chair Heffernon said the public input meeting will take place on Monday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Lyman
11 Hall Cafeteria.

12 **9. OTHER TOPICS**

13 Chair Heffernon said she received a phone call from a resident whose father had owned the property
14 where the new fire station is being constructed. The resident said her father who was a farmer had
15 recently passed away and was part of the Simpson family of which Simpson Court is named. Chair
16 Heffernon said the daughter asked if something could be done on this property in remembrance of her
17 father. She asked the Commission to come up with ideas, i.e, a garden. Commissioner Arsenault and Vice-
18 Chair Lathrop suggested a plaque in the firehouse. Chair Heffernon suggested planting a tree.

19 Chair Heffernon spoke about a letter she received from Commissioner Ken Ryan announcing his resignation
20 after serving eight years on the Commission.

21 **10. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS**

22 **A. CACIWC – membership dues**

23 **MOTION: A motion by Vice-Chair Lathrop seconded by Commissioner Pietras to approve the**
24 **yearly CACIWC Membership dues for \$55. The motion passed unanimously**

25 **C. Community Garden**

26 Vice-Chair Lathrop said there was a meeting of the Recreation Board and the consensus was to not plow
27 the entire garden but to install a chain link fence. Chair Heffernon said she received a letter from Helen
28 Stowe thanking the Commission for their support.

29 **D. CACIWC – 38th Annual Meeting & Environmental Conference**, Sat. Nov. 14,
30 2015, Villa Capri, 906 N. Colony Rd., Wallingford

31 Chair Heffernon urged the Commission to attend the Conference.

SPECIAL MEETING

Wallingford Conservation Commission
Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015

1 Commissioner Pietras asked for an update on the next phase of the Quinnipiac River Linear Trail. Ms.
2 O'Hare said ground was broken on June 22 and the scaffolding is being installed. Ms. O'Hare said the
3 construction of the new trail is approaching from two sides, from Warehouse Point Road and from
4 Fireworks Island. She said the trees are being cleared for the rest of the trail.

5 Commissioner Saunders asked about the hiring of the surveyor for the Town Hall. *Chair Heffernon will*
6 *contact Rob Baltramaitis, Town Engineer.*

7 **11. NEXT MEETING – October 8, 2015**

8 **12. ADJOURNMENT**

9 **MOTION: A motion by Commissioner Lathrop second by Commissioner Arsenault to adjourn**
10 **the meeting at 9:04 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.**

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12 Respectfully submitted,

13 Cynthia A. Kleist

14 Recording Secretary

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