

Wallingford Conservation Commission
Farmland Lease Committee
Minutes of Special Meeting
Wednesday, September 28, 2011

A special meeting of the Wallingford Conservation Commission Farmland Lease Properties Committee was held on Wednesday, September 28, 2011 in Wallingford Town Hall Room 116. The meeting was called to order by committee chair Dianne Saunders at 6:35 pm.

Present: Dianne Saunders; Tom Pietras; Carl Arsenault. Not present: James Pyskaty.

The committee discussed items as requested by the Environmental Planner, in order to make recommendations to the Conservation Commission for its October, 2011 meeting. Discussion and consensus of the FLPC:

1. Fields 11A-11B – Tamarac Swamp Road. The current lessee has declined the lease extension of one year. Lease will expire 12/31/11.

Committee discussed and decided to recommend the fields be leased together for 1 year, January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 using the current lease specs. Then the fields will be included in the 2013-2017 (revised from 2012-2016) lease cycle.

2. Field 6C (typo had 6B on agenda) - corner of Northford Rd and Cooke Rd – former pasture, with no access to water after the fence was installed; small.

Committee decided to recommend adding the field to the Public Works mowing plan through the end of the 2016 lease cycle. Then the field may be added to the lease for field 6A in the 2017 lease cycle, as a maintenance area. All agreed the field needs to be mowed to promote visibility and retain grassland habitat.

3. Field 7A (Northford Rd) – idle - need to design different bid specs, and install erosion controls in ravine west of the field now that field has stabilized.

Committee decided to recommend the field be mowed in January, 2012 (need frozen ground). If Public Works cannot mow at that time, pay to have the field mowed in January, 2012, to abate woody growth and invasive shrubs and trees. The field should be bid in the 2013-2017 lease cycle, in the manner determined previously by the Conservation Commission (alternative as deep-zone tillage on eastern and southern portions, with perennial grass buffer and hay on western portion; or hay; or pasture, with fencing, gates and water access installed by lessee. In all cases, the 2 small wetland areas would remain as non-crop areas).

4. Proposed sugarbush (Anderson Rd)

The committee decided to recommend the sugarbush be added to the Farmland Lease Program and leased for 1 year in 2012. Specs have already been submitted to the Environmental Planner. A map is needed, and CC review and approval. Pending the results with the 1-year trial lease, the area could then be considered for the 2013-2017 lease cycle.

There were no other items of business at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Dianne Saunders