

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
Telephone (203) 563-0180  
Fax (203) 563-0284



TOWN HALL  
238 Danbury Road  
Wilton, Connecticut 06897

## Memorandum

To: Board of Selectmen  
From: Conservation Commission  
Date: March 11, 1997  
Re: Stone Wall Guidelines

This past winter has brought more occasions to call into service the Town's fence viewers than most of us would have thought likely. In discussing this trend to rebuild walls in Wilton, the Conservation Commission has chosen to exercise their charge of providing the community information of environmental topics by educating the public on the value and rules associated with our stone walls.

The value of stone walls will be conveyed in our spring newsletter and in a press release/contact with the local papers. Additionally, Pat Sesto has been fielding stone wall questions and presents the issues regarding the walls where possible.

The rules associated with stone walls forming a common boundary, "boundary walls" are the responsibility of our fence viewers. While historically the viewers examined both privately and publicly owned walls, the recently appointed viewers are charged with protecting the town's interest in walls where Wilton is a joint or sole owner. To keep the decisions of the two fence viewers consistent with each other and with the Town's goals, and to provide guidance to persons wishing to build or rebuild a Town owned wall or boundary wall, the Commission proposes the following guidelines for (re)construction for walls partially or wholly on town land.

1. Walls are to be (re)built with native/field stone. Blasted, tight fitting, angular stones shall be disallowed.
2. Dry laid construction methodology shall be used, no cement or mortar except as a stabilizing "filler" in the top two layers of stone.
3. Walls shall not exceed three feet in height and shall be a minimum of two feet wide or may be (re)constructed in conformance with the existing wall dimensions if their dimensions exceed the guidelines.
4. Walls must be rebuilt in place so as not to compromise their boundary wall status.

These guidelines were established to help retain colonial dimensions, thus the rural character of many of our walls and to maintain/maximize the habitat contribution of stone walls. We respectfully request you adopt these guidelines to enable residents and fence viewers alike to make informed and consistent judgments regarding stone wall (re)construction.