

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Wednesday, May 5, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES**

PRESENT: Jackie Algon (CHAIR), Frank Simone, Kim Healy, Dave Cote, Colleen O'Brien

ABSENT: Jeff Lapnow (notified of intended absence), Phil Murphy (not notified of intended absence)

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Ms. Algon.
- II. PLANNING & ZONING REFERRALS** - None
- III. INLAND WETLANDS REFERRALS** - None
- IV. ONGOING BUSINESS**

a. Parks Reports –

- a.** Bradley Park – Commissioners discussed the recent article about unauthorized clearing in Bradley and other town parks. The Commission will hold a Special Meeting on Monday May 10, 2021 at 4:00pm, starting at the Oak Ledge Lane entrance of Bradley Park, to view the trail system. A second Special Meeting will be held via Zoom on May 17, 2021, at 7pm to discuss their findings and gather thoughts on their visit, in addition to neighborhood input. Starting a "Friends of Bradley Park" group, or a Trail subcommittee was suggested.

- b. Walks & Talks** – Commissioners hope to schedule walks after COVID restrictions are lifted as expected on May 19th.

Mr. Conklin suggested the Agenda be shuffled to allow a 4th Grader to propose her cleanup event.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a.** Litter Project proposal by Cider Mill 4th Grader, Elyse Pencu as Wilton's Ms. President and Townwide Cleanup Day Discussion

Elyse Pencu, Wilton's Ms. President, shared her campaign regarding litter clean up. Commissioners agreed they would take the lead to arrange a Townwide Cleanup Day for May 29, 2021. Mr. Cote, Ms. Healy, and Mr. Simone agreed to work with Ms. Pencu directly to collaborate *via* Special Meeting. Mr. Conklin advised the Town of Wilton is happy to provide garbage bags, gloves, dumpsters, and \$500 in prizes courtesy of the Wilton Kiwanis.

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

- a. Walks & Talks** – Ms. O'Brien will lead a walk of Bradley Park on June 6, 2021 at 1:00 pm. Ms. O'Brien will work with Mr. Murphy on PR.
- b. Work with other Commissions/Committees**
 - i. **DEER COMMITTEE** – Mr. Conklin provided the harvest numbers posted by the State of CT DEEP.
 - ii. **TREE COMMITTEE** – Ms. Algon noted there is more work to be done with the Tree Committee documents that are being revised. This Commission will have the opportunity to review these prior to the Board of Selectmen submission.
- c. Planning and Zoning Liaison Report** - Nothing new to report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Save the Sound Dam Safety General Permit** – Mr. Conklin provided background on the dam removal project by Save the Sound taking place this Spring and 2022.
- b. Publishing Guidelines** – Ms. Algon confirmed there is a new process for writing newsletters which she will write-up and share with the members.
- c. E-Newsletter Planning**
 - a. Procedures for preparation, review, distribution – Ms. Algon noted there are some Bios received for “Meet the Commissioners”. There are several articles ready to go and will be sent to the Graphic Designer. Ms. O'Brien will send her article on Oriental Bittersweet by week's end. A quick notice of the Townwide Cleanup will be submitted by Mr. Simone. Ms. O'Brien noted she has photos to submit, as well.

The Commission wants to re-publish the No Mow May Article recently published in newsmedia.
- d. Tree Committee documents for consideration prior to distribution to BOS**
 - a. Memo to BOS
 - b. Policy Manual (prepared as FAQ)

Postponed for changes to be incorporated. A Special Meeting will be set-up to review and discuss.
- e. Arbor Day** – An annual event will be scheduled each Fall with a celebration and tree planting.
 - a. Naming Tree Steward 2021 and honoring both 2020 and 2021 Tree Stewards – Nick Lee has been named as 2021 Tree Steward and Liz Craig, Steward from 2020, will be recognized as well.
 - b. Article explaining decision - The Tree Committee will take the lead.

- f. Park Assignments – The parks that were not assigned were Cherry Lane, Schenck’s Island, Spencer-Rice and Wild Duck. Ms. Healy agreed to take Schenck’s Island, and Wild Duck. Mr. Murphy will take Cherry Lane and Spencer-Rice Preserve.
- g. 2021 Goals & Objectives – skipped item.
- h. Invasive Strategy Planning – skipped item.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2021

Commissioners noted the Minutes were not sent *via* email. Ms. Algon suggested reading them on-line. A vote for approval will be held at the next meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Commissioners discussed starting hybrid meetings with some members in-person and some on Zoom beginning in September.

IX. ADJOURN – Ms. O’Brien MOVED to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:52pm, SECONDED by Ms. Healy and CARRIED 4-0-0 with all in favor.

Next regular meeting will be June 2, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary, Environmental Affairs