

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

PRESENT: Frank Simone (Acting Chair), Jackie Algon, Colleen O'Brien, Jeff Lapnow

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director Environmental Affairs; Donna Merrill, Resident

ABSENT: Phil Murphy & David Cote

I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Mr. Simone.

II. NEW BUSINESS

1. 2021 Election of Officers

Commissioners scrambled the agenda to discuss this at the end of the meeting and give missing commissioners a chance to log in to the Zoom meeting if they were having difficulty.

2. 2021 Liaison Schedule for Planning & Zoning Commission Meetings

Ms. Algon offered to take the month of January, Ms. O'Brien offered to take the month of February, and Mr. Simone offered to take March to get the year started. Remaining schedule will be discussed at a future meeting when all members are present.

III. PLANNING & ZONING REFERRALS - None

IV. INLAND WETLANDS REFERRALS - None

V. ONGOING BUSINESS

a. Parks Reports – Mr. Conklin discussed the safety signage program the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Wilton Police Department are creating for town parks due to recent Emergency Services calls. He also noted Mr. Herter removed materials/debris surrounding Horseshoe Pond such as sports nets and garbage, subsequent to formal correspondence of warning to neighbors of the pond.

b. Walks & Talks – Nothing to report due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Conservation Commission will try to engage Marie Soulliere-Chieppo to give a presentation via Zoom on issues related to recycling black plastic.

c. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- i. **TREE COMMITTEE** – Ms. Algon reported they are holding three Special Meetings in January to work on developing suggestions for development of an ordinance. She noted they are using the comprehensive Greenwich Tree Policy as a model. She confirmed new donated trees are in the process of being planted.
- ii. **DEER COMMITTEE** – Mr. Conklin confirmed the Controlled Hunt is ongoing with no issues; harvest totals at this point in the season are similar to previous years.
- d. **2021 Goals & Objectives & Strategy for Invasives** – Mr. Simone read the 2020 Goals and Objectives from pg. 2 of the Agenda which relate to Public Education and Outreach. Ms. Algon noted this Commission and several others received a letter from Kate Throckmorton regarding a proposed Invasive Species database for Wilton. Commissioners agreed that this topic can be addressed in upcoming eNewsletters and possibly a future Talk. The stated 2020 Goals & Objectives will continue for 2021. Mr. Simone suggested we prepare a report of Accomplishments vs. Objectives for 2020.
- e. **E-Newsletter Discussion** – Mr. Conklin advised he has researched programs for public outreach per the request at the December meeting. He stated he will contract the newsletter to a third party who will work with a graphic designer. Mr. Conklin suggested each Commissioner create a list of potential organizations they would like to approach who may agree to share the newsletter registration link through their outreach. Each Commissioner will bring his/her list to the next meeting.
- f. **Planning and Zoning Liaison Report** - Nothing new to report.

VI. 2021 ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- a. Mr. Simone MOVED to ELECT Ms. Algon as Chairwoman, SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien and CARRIED 4-0-0 with Mr. Simone in favor, Ms. O'Brien in favor, Mr. Lapnow in favor, and Ms. Algon in favor. Ms. Algon accepted this role with the caveat that another member of the Tree Committee will assume the role of the Chairperson of that Committee, and she will continue to serve as a member of the Tree Committee.
- b. Ms. O'Brien MOVED to ELECT Mr. Simone for Vice Chairman, SECONDED by Ms. Algon and CARRIED 4-0-0 with Ms. O'Brien in favor, Ms. Algon in favor, Mr. Lapnow in favor, and Mr. Simone in favor.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2020

Mr. Simone MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2020 as drafted, SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien and CARRIED 4-0-0 with Ms. Algon in favor, Mr. Simone in favor, Mr. Lapnow in favor, and Ms. O'Brien in favor.

- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT** – Ms. Merrill noted she logged in to the Meeting to know the outcome of the election of Officers for this Commission.

- IX. ADJOURN** – Mr. Lapnow MOVED to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:02pm, SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien and CARRIED 4-0-0 with Ms. Algon in favor, Mr. Simone in favor, Mr.

Lapnow in favor, and Ms. O'Brien in favor.

Next regular meeting will be February 3, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary, Environmental Affairs