

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY October 3, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX ROOM A

MEETING MINUTES

PRESENT: Brice Chaney (Acting Chair), Jackie Algon, Jade Hobson, Colleen O'Brien, Frank Simone

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director Environmental Affairs; Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary; Debra Thompson-Van, Chair Energy Commission; Alice Cook, Alice Cook Design Associates; John Fleckenstein, Property Owner

ABSENT: Susan DiLoreto (notified of intended absence), Jeff Lapnow (not notified of intended absence)

I. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Chaney called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

II. Sustainable Living Presentation

Ms. Thompson-Van, the Chair of the Energy Commission, introduced the Sustainable CT Initiative, approved by the Board of Selectmen, to the members and asked that the Board assist with the conservation related objectives to obtain the status of a sustainable town. Mr. Simone noted that the Commission is stretched thin with projects already underway and confirmed he would not have time to take this initiative into consideration.

Mr. Conklin reviewed the materials from Ms. Thompson-Van and confirmed many of the items to be completed are already completed or are underway. He offered to connect Ms. Thompson-Van with the correct departments and individuals to discuss these items.

III. Alice Cook Stonewall Guidelines Discussion

Ms. Cook requested that a stone wall on Liberty Street be exempt from the stonewall guidelines for the town of Wilton. The waiver is for the wall to be higher and mortared in place. She described the aesthetic reason for her request and asked that a variance be granted in this case. The Commission was not in favor of granting the variance as the guidelines were written for conformance with all boundary walls and allowing a variance sets a precedence.

IV. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS

A. SP#435, 404 Danbury Road, The Riverbrook Regional Young Men's Christian Association, Inc., d/b/a Wilton YMCA, to allow administrative approval to reduce the scope of the previously approved building additions and site work

CC Minutes 10/3/18

*Minutes have not been reviewed by this Board and may be subject to revision in future minutes.

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TOWN OF WILTON
2018 OCT -9 P 3:43
BY: *LC*

Mr. Conklin advised that the YMCA received approval from Inland Wetlands for additions and site work last year. Due to the increase in cost of materials when they went out to bid it was over budget. The YMCA is requesting approval for a smaller scope with all stormwater management and mitigation plantings still being included with this smaller scope.

The Commission agreed there are no Conservation related issues and no comments will be required.

V. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS - None

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

- A. Parks Reports –** Mr. Conklin advised he is hiring Tall Trees Landscaping to clear the view from Horseshoe Road to the pond as well as cleaning up the area planted by the Commissioners. He is also hiring them to clear some brush at Schenck's Island near Starbucks.

Ms. Hobson asked for the status of the Schenck's Island bridge project. Mr. Conklin responded that Ms. Fanzutti was working on that project and since she left the Town of Wilton, this project has been put on hold at this time. He confirmed it is still a project that will be revisited when a replacement has been hired.

- B. Conservation Activity Log Updates**

Horseshoe Pond Long-Term Management Plan – Discussed above. Nothing new to report.

Park Walks & Talks – Ms. Algon confirmed the Sky Watch event is taking place on October 14th with a rain date of October 28th at Slaughter Field. The Fire Department has confirmed they will have a truck available to help with the bonfire. Ms. Algon noted she is working with the Land Trust to ensure the area for the event is properly mowed. She asked that members collect and bring sticks for s'mores. Mr. Conklin advised he can provide lanterns, tables and hot and cold beverage coolers. Ms. O'Brien offered to bring cookies to this event.

Ms. Algon stated Amanda Lord of Weir Farm has requested a formal walk of her park with this Commission on October 10th at 10:30am. The Commissioners agreed that a walk during the work week would not garner enough attention to spend the time putting it together.

Ms. O'Brien asked if the Committee should schedule a walk now for November. Mr. Conklin suggested a Thanksgiving weekend event for families to get out and enjoy nature. This will be discussed further at the next meeting on November 7th.

Kent Pond Management – Ms. Algon confirmed she is holding another invasive clean-up event at Kent Pond on November 3rd and invited all to attend. Mr. Conklin stated he would like to ask DEEP to approve a smaller stocking of grass carp in the springtime. The board agreed the pond looks good at this time, which is earlier than expected as the town was advised it could take a year to see results.

Schenck's Island Plan – Mr. Conklin stated the SIMM Committee has not met recently as their charge to find a designer has been completed. The Town is in the process of finalizing the contract with Middeleer Land Design.

Stewardship Plan for Easements – Nothing new to report.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- A. Tree Committee – Ms. Algon stated the Tree Committee is working through completing a list of activities. She stated Peg Koellmer is a new member who knows many people in town which will make the tasks easier to complete utilizing the appropriate contacts. There are three trees being removed in the center. A holly tree will replace the current tree used for holiday light decorations on the Town Green, sometime in the springtime.

Ms. Algon stated the Committee is short one member and they have two interested members. She asked Mr. Conklin if there is a limit to the number of members so that they could offer the space to both candidates. Mr. Conklin stated he would look into the possibility of having an eight member board.

- B. Deer Committee – Mr. Conklin confirmed the Committee has not met recently but the controlled hunt is underway. He reported that the harvest numbers for last year were 20% higher than the previous year.
- C. Planning & Zoning Liaison – Mr. Simone confirmed he was the liaison for September and he was not requested to attend any meetings as there were no conservation related items that were not previously addressed.

Mr. Chaney confirmed he is the liaison for October and stated he most likely will not be available for the 22nd. Mr. Simone offered to be the liaison in his absence.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **POCD Review/Discussion** – Ms. Algon reported that Milone & MacBroom have put together their first draft of the new POCD. She noted her concern that the Conservation Commission was not listed as a partner in the document. She confirmed it looks like the long-term views are not being properly considered. She stated she would send out a draft to the members and asked that others get involved.
- b. **HazWaste Collection** – Mr. Conklin reminded the Commissioners that next Saturday, the 13th is the annual HazWaste Collection Event at Miller-Driscoll School from 9am to 1pm. He asked that all Commissioners attend this event with an arrival time of 8:30am. Mr. Chaney confirmed he will not be available. All other present Commissioners confirmed they can attend. Mr. Conklin stated we now take fire extinguishers and the vendor, Care Environmental, promised to have more staff on hand than last years event.
- c. **Recycling Initiatives** - Mr. Conklin reported there are several recycling initiatives in

the coming weeks that he and Sarah Gioffre are working on. The first event is HazWaste Collection. The second week is going to be centered around recycling ABC's to provide information on what can be recycled as the rules are constantly changing. The third week will include a one-day electronics collection at Town Hall. Fourth will be an opportunity for residents to take a recycling pledge and take part in a scavenger hunt. The fifth event is "America Recycles Day" on November 15th.

Mr. Conklin advised that other groups, such as the Board of Education, Wilton Go Green, and Zero Waste are all planning events as well. These events include "Zero Waste" and "Skip the Straw" week. Mr. Conklin confirmed the town is not considering a ban on plastics at this time.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Meeting Minutes 9/5/18

Ms. Algon MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes as drafted, SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien and CARRIED 5-0-0.

XI. ADJOURN – Ms. Hobson MOVED to ADJOURN at 9:03 p.m., SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Next meeting will be November 7, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs