

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY September 5, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX ROOM A

MEETING MINUTES

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
TOWN OF WILTON
2018 SEP 11 A 9:07
BY: ACF

- I. PRESENT: Susan DiLoreto (Chair), Jade Hobson, Jackie Algon, Brice Chaney, Colleen O'Brien, Frank Simone, Jeff Lapnow

ALSO PRESENT: Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary

- II. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. DiLoreto called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

- III. Sustainable Living Presentation

Ms. DiLoreto stated that Debra Thompson-Van, the Chair of the Energy Commission, was hoping to present her sustainable living information to the Commission but was unavailable to make it tonight. She asked that we keep the item on the Agenda for the October Meeting.

- IV. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS - None

- V. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

- A. **WET#2522(S) LOWY – 61 Little Fox Lane** – proposed pond dredging project to restore the depth and shape and improve water quality of the water body

Ms. Diloreto reviewed the plan for this proposal and noted the pond was filled with growth including Stilt Grass. Ms Algon added there was also Japanese Knotweed in the area. Mr. Lapnow explained the process of dredging a pond to the Commissioners. Ms. O'Brien stated this proposal would be a vast improvement from the current conditions.

The Commission agreed that the Wetland Commission would most likely address the lack of a buffer between the lawn and pond. The Conservation Commission recommends the buffer be planted with native species. Mr. Chaney asked about a long-term solution and it was discussed that the installation of the forebay would help with siltation in the future.

Ms. Algon asked if the dam could be removed which would allow the water to flow like a stream. Mr. Simone stated that the Commission is not reviewing this project to change the job, but to comment on what could be a conservation suggestion. Ms. Algon stated she would like to submit a comment relating to the ecological nature of the pond would be healthier as a stream.

- B. WET#2531(S) WILTON HEIGHTS, LLC – 300 Danbury Road, Whitewood Lane (Assessor's Map#58 Lot#37), Whitewood Lane (Assessor's Map#58 Lot#39), 3, 7, & 11 Whitewood Lane** – redevelopment of the properties with two buildings that still consist of retail space and residential units within a wetland with a watercourse crossing, an upland review area, and an extended upland review area

Ms. Larkin noted this referral is one that was already discussed under a different application number. She noted Gregory & Adams responded to the comments from the last application. Ms. Larkin read the comments from the past referral and the Commission agreed the comments will remain the same.

VI. ONGOING BUSINESS

- A. Parks Reports** – Ms. O'Brien stated she has not walked her parks in August as it was too hot.

- B. Conservation Activity Log Updates**

Horseshoe Pond Long-Term Management Plan – Ms. DiLoreto stated she is meeting with Charlie Taney from the Norwalk River Valley Trail to discuss the placement of the benches that are being donated. She noted the area that was planted recently by the Commissioners needs to be weeded. Mr. Lapnow and Ms. O'Brien stated they would be happy to help with weeding on a Saturday morning.

Park Walks & Talks – Ms. Algon confirmed the next walk is scheduled for October 7th and will be another Sky Watch event at Slaughter Field with a rain date of October 14th. The Land Trust has agreed to mow the field prior to the event. Ms. Algon will work with the Fire Department to ensure they have a truck available for standby. Ms. Algon also asked that Commissioners collect and bring sticks for s'mores. Mr. Lapnow confirmed he would provide the firewood for the bonfire.

Ms. Algon stated she is working to hold a talk at the library in March for education on pollinator trees. She also described the Community Canopy program the Tree Committee is considering with the Arbor Day Foundation. She described this initiative as a web tool that helps property owners decide the best trees and the best area to plant them for energy and ecological benefits. The minimum number we would need to sell is 100 trees with the 2 tree maximum per household. The program is an opportunity to educate the public on values trees add to the environment.

Kent Pond Management – Ms. Algon reported that the pond looks good and she thinks the grass carp are eating the target invasives. She asked that Mr. Conklin contact the DEEP to come out to the pond to determine if more should be stocked. She noted that the Henderson Pond has also improved but she has not seen any nesters on the pond as in years past. Ms. Algon asked for assistance in cleaning more of the buffer of Kent Pond on Saturday mornings.

Schenck's Island Plan – Ms. DiLoreto confirmed the SIMM Committee voted to hire Middleleer LA for the concept plan after interviewing several proposals. She noted there will be charretts this fall and the hope is to develop a concept plan to better integrate the two parks with the town center.

Stewardship Plan for Easements – Nothing new to report. Mr. Simone stated he wanted to be a secondary for this item.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

A. Tree Committee – Nothing to report.

B. Deer Committee – Mr. Lapnow stated that the Deer Committee met earlier in the day and voted to allow minors to hunt with their parents in the Controlled Hunt as long as they are vetted and licensed with the State.

C. Planning & Zoning Liaison – There was nothing to report for August. Mr. Simone confirmed he is the liaison for September.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Alice Cook Stonewall Guidelines Discussion** – Ms. Larkin noted that Ms. Cook was not able to come to this meeting but hopes to come for the October meeting. The Stonewall Guidelines were discussed and the board asked Ms. Larkin to send the Guidelines to members via email.
- b. Ms. Larkin reminded the Commission that the HazWaste Collection Event is being held on October 13 and asked that every Commissioner participate. Mr. Chaney stated he would not be in town that day.
- c. Ms. Larkin reminded the Commission that they should be thinking about Newsletter Articles for the Fall Issue. Ms. Algon suggested an article about the Community Tree Canopy.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Meeting Minutes 7/11/18

Mr. Simone MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes as drafted, SECONDED by Mr. Lapnow and CARRIED 6-0-1 with Ms. DiLoreto abstaining as she was not present for the meeting.

XI. ADJOURN – Ms. Algon MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:04 p.m., SECONDED by Ms. Hobson and CARRIED 7-0-0.

Next meeting will be October 3, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs