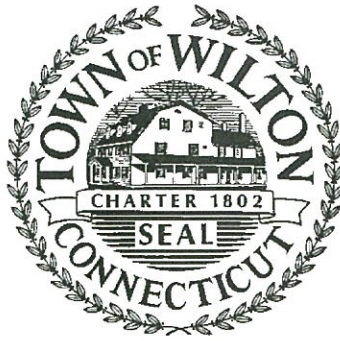


CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Telephone (203) 563-0180

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY April 5, 2017 – 7:30 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX - MEETING ROOM "A"

MINUTES

- I. PRESENT: Susan DiLoreto (Chair), Jackie Algon, Frank Simone, Colleen O'Brien, Jeff Lapnow, Brice Chaney
- II. ALSO PRESENT: Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary
- III. ABSENT: Jade Hobson (notified of intended absence)
- IV. CALL TO ORDER – Ms. DiLoreto called the meeting to order at 7:17pm
- V. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

- A. **WET#2437(S) LTWJ, LLC – Cannon Road** – subdivide approximately 55 acres of land for a subdivision which will create eight building lots each one-acre minimum and set aside 43 acres for conservation land

Ms. DiLoreto confirmed she reviewed the plans with Mr. Conklin prior to the site walk and he stated the plan discharges water toward the undeveloped land. The commissioners questioned if this land is sufficient enough to accept this amount of runoff. Ms. Algon wondered what the impact is to the flood zone. Ms. DiLoreto noted where the land is pitched. Mr. Simone stated the cluster option is not as conservation friendly because what is conserved is not usable. Ms. Algon raised concern that the development will degrade the conservation easement with the change in terrain, filling in the flood zone, and the impact on the rest of the site. Mr. Chaney asked about the impact on the land with the 1-acre lots if it were 8 acres and 4 sites as he does not believe this is a drastic change. He also stated the high density is resulting in more activities with the driveway and runoff.

The commissioners agreed to recommend all specimen trees are protected and stones from historic walls should be re-used if at all possible. The commissioners also agreed that the greatest risk for this subdivision is runoff into the pond. Mr. Lapnow stated the plantings are small and the board may want an increase in amount and sizes. The commission agreed that consideration should be given to the impacted sloped property to ensure the protected land is not adversely affected.

- VI. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS - None
- VII. ONGOING BUSINESS

CC Minutes 4/5/17

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

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- A. **Parks Reports** – Ms. Algon confirmed there is another work group being formed for further trail building at Quarry Head in June.

B. Conservation Activity Log Updates

Horseshoe Pond Long-Term Management Plan – Ms. DiLoreto noted that Mr. Conklin has been focusing more on other town initiatives as of late but more work needs to be done. Mr. Lapnow suggested they go ahead and work on the planting area and clear the scrubby area to the side. Mr. Lapnow stated he can get some of his workers, or Parks & Recreation to assist. Ms. DiLoreto stated she would set a work day in May which she will communicate to the members.

Park Walks & Talks – Ms. Algon stated that a meditation walk is being scheduled with Leanne Snyder leading on April 23rd. Leanne had originally asked to use the Norwalk River Valley Trail but Ms. Algon suggested she look at the town's parks as an option.

The commissioners noted that the May 21st birding walk with Joe Bear will take place from 8:30 – 10:30 am at Allen's Meadows.

Ms. O'Brien has agreed to lead a walk in Sackett Preserve on June 11th at 1pm. She asked Ms. Larkin to confirm who is in charge of this park so she can get some background information.

Kent Pond Management – Ms. Algon stated there was a recent neighbor meeting where two of the four families that own Henderson's Pond attended. These two families have committed to not utilizing fertilizer which will help with the Kent Pond reclamation. The neighbors are scheduling a work day to identify the buffer and invasives that may be present. Once the work to be done is clarified, another work day will be scheduled to remove and replace these invasives. Ms. Algon estimates that 30 neighbors will be involved.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- i. **Tree Committee** – Ms. DiLoreto confirmed the committee recently held a special meeting where Barbara Quincy was named as the Tree Steward for the year which will be presented to her posthumously on Arbor Day. A shade tree will be planted in her honor at the corner of Old Ridgefield Road and Hubbard Road which will be obtained and planted by Nick Lee, a Tree Committee Member.

Mr. DiLoreto stated the Committee is considering their first educational event which would be held in the fall. They are asking Claire Rutledge from UCONN to provide information on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Ms. Rutledge has developed diagnostic tests that identify the presence of the EAB.

Ms. Algon also confirmed the recent grant request for America the Beautiful was denied. She indicated the town may re-apply in the next grant period.

- ii. Deer Committee – Mr. Lapnow noted his interest to join the Deer Committee. The commissioners recommended that Mr. Lapnow be appointed to the Deer Committee by the Board of Selectmen.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Wilton Go Green Festival Attendance** – Ms. Larkin asked if the commissioners would like to have a table at the Go Green Festival on May 7th. Most of the commissioners could not attend for scheduling purposes. Mr. Lapnow stated he would like to have a table. Ms. Algon noted she will be there for other organizations and can relieve him when needed. Mr. Lapnow will double-check his schedule to ensure he is free that day, and will let Ms. Larkin know if she should go ahead with the application and insurance documents.
- B. **Water Restrictions** – Mr. Lapnow suggested the commission get involved with the current drought restrictions. Ms. DiLoreto suggested this be a newsletter article for Fall 2017. Ms. Algon asked if the commission has any recourse to change our mandates and asked if the commission will have any input on the Plan of Conservation and Development that is being redone.

XI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

a. 3/1/17 Meeting Minutes –

Mr. Lapnow MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes, SECONDED by Mr. Simone and CARRIED 6-0-0.

b. Revisions to February 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Algon submitted the following revisions to the February 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes:

IV. Kent Pond Discussion:

Paragraph 3. sentence 2: SNEW confirmed they would not endorse chemicals in this water body that feeds through Huckleberry Hill Brook into Rock Lake Reservoir.

Paragraph 5. sentence 2: An issue with the blanket is that aquatic plants reproduce by fragmentation and the invasives could spread if maintenance is not carefully monitored.

Paragraph 8. Sentence 5: As the pond is in a watershed, the water company was asked to provide input and they strongly urge that no chemical treatment be used.

VII. Ongoing Business

C. i. Sentence 2: The tree will be relocated 10 ft. west of its current placement.

XII. ADJOURN – Mr. Simone MOVED to adjourn at 8:28 pm, SECONDED by Ms. O'Brien, and CARRIED

6-0-0.

Next meeting will be May 3, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs