

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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TOWN HALL

238 Danbury Road

Wilton, Connecticut 06897

WILTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

TUESDAY January 8, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.

TOWN HALL ANNEX ROOM A

MEETING MINUTES

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Conklin, Director Environmental Affairs; Zen Herter, Environmental Analyst; Liz Larkin, Recording Secretary; Sarah Curtis, Resident

ABSENT: Jade Hobson, Brice Chaney (notified of intended absences)

I. CALL TO ORDER: Ms. DiLoreto called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

Mr. Conklin introduced and welcomed the town's new Environmental Analyst, Zen Herter.

II. PLANNING AND ZONING REFERRALS

A. **REG#18375, 200 Danbury Road, LLC**, to amend Section 29-6.E and Section 29-6.E.12 of Wilton Zoning Regulations to increase maximum building height and maximum floor area ratio for properties with frontage on Route 7, served by sewer and water, with a maximum lot size of 2 acres and a minimum lot frontage and width of 200 ft.

Mr. Herter explained the regulation change and the floor area ratio and how it is calculated.

The Commission agreed there are no conservation issues and there will be no comment.

B. **SP#451, O'Brien/O'Meara**, to permit accessory dwelling unit within an existing barn/accessory building, pursuant to Section 29-4.D.1 of Wilton Zoning Regulations, including a small addition to the existing barn to accommodate an elevator to the second floor; and a gravel driveway to the unit, for property located at 25 Heritage Court

Mr. Conklin advised the Commission that this request will include a small addition to the existing garage for the elevator only.

The Commission agreed there are no conservation issues and there will be no comment.

C. **CHZ#18376, Motors Group Associates LP**, proposed change of zone from Residential (R-1A) District to General Business (GB) District, for property located at 10 North

CC Minutes 1/8/19

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

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TOWN OF WILTON
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BY: LY

Main Street

Mr. Conklin advised the Commission that this lot is surrounded by the GB Zone and a portion of the lot is bound by a residential zone.

The Commission agreed there are no conservation issues and there will be no comment.

III. INLAND WETLAND REFERRALS

A. WET#2550(S) HELMAN/RIXON – 74 Rivergate Drive – “emergency” septic replacement

Mr. Conklin advised this property had a failure of the septic system and it has already been replaced under an emergency temporary permit.

The Commission agreed there are no conservation issues and there will be no comment.

B. WET#2552(S) BAKER – 108 Nod Hill Road – “emergency” septic replacement

Mr. Conklin explained this property had a failure of the septic system and it has already been replaced under an emergency temporary permit.

The Commission agreed there are no conservation issues and there will be no comment.

IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

- A. Parks Reports** – Mr. Herter provided the Commissioners with a Staff Report. The report includes details of parks where he has completed work clearing trees and brush from trails. Mr. Herter also confirmed he is getting quotes to re-gravel the Cherry Lane parking area and remove some trees that have fallen into the pond.

Mr. Conklin stated the Animal Control Officer has asked that the Conservation Commission add signage to Town Forest for dogs to be leashed. He noted there have been issues with dogs not on leash and due to the number of dog walkers in this park, this is a safety issue. The Commissioners spoke about the ramifications of picking and choosing parks that should require leashes while the town ordinance states the dogs must be within control of the owner, not necessarily leashed. Mr. Simone suggested the Board of Selectmen re-visit the ordinance. The Commissioners agreed to the purchase of signs to be placed at the three entrances to Town Forest in the interim.

B. Conservation Activity Log Updates

Horseshoe Pond Long-Term Management Plan – Mr. Conklin confirmed Solitude is being hired for this calendar year to continue with their lily pad treatment as he was happy with the results from the first year. Mr. Conklin also reported that he hired a local company to clean up the newly planted area and clear a window to view the pond from the parking area. Ms. DiLoreto suggested cutting back the grasses in the newly planted area in the spring which will result in strong healthy new growth.

Park Walks & Talks – Ms. O'Brien confirmed there was a walk at Cherry Lane Park which was not well attended. She attributed the lack of participation on the lack of publicity in the newspaper and the busy time of the holiday season. The Commission agreed the next walk will be February 10, 2019 at Vista Park starting at 1:00 pm. The members agreed that if there is snow on the ground, it can be a snowshoe walk which is popular. Ms. O'Brien agreed to lead the walk. Ms. Algon agreed to start the publicity to ensure attendance.

Kent Pond Management – Nothing new to report.

Schenck's Island Plan – Mr. Conklin advised that the SIMM Committee had their kick-off meeting and two public charettes are being planned in March and April.

Stewardship Plan for Easements – Nothing new to report.

C. Work with other Commissions/Committees

- A. Tree Committee** – Ms. Algon confirmed the Committee is meeting the following evening so there was nothing new to report.
- B. Deer Committee** – Mr. Conklin confirmed the amount of deer harvested in Wilton on January 1st was 97 which is down from last year but in line with the previous year. He attributed the low number to excessive rain.
- C. Planning & Zoning Liaison** – Mr. Lapnow had nothing to report as he attended a meeting but could not hear what was happening due to the large number of attendees.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Request for Letter of Support for Wilton Land Conservation Trust purchase of 183 Ridgefield Road** – Mr. Conklin confirmed the same request was asked of the Board of Selectman (BOS) and they will not make a recommendation until they are able to review the grant application to understand what they would be supporting. The Commissioners agreed with the BOS on this course of action. Mr. Conklin stated he would forward the application once received and advised a Special Meeting may need to be scheduled to discuss prior to the grant deadline. The Commissioners agreed that if needed, a Special Meeting could be set up for January 29, 2019 at 2:00pm with a call in number for those who cannot appear in person.
- b. Stonewall Guidelines** – Mr. Conklin stated the matter with the property on the corner of Hurlbutt and Liberty has been taken over by Town Counsel. He recommended that this item is not discussed as it is now a legal matter.
- c. Winter Newsletter** – Ms. Hobson, via email to Commission, offered to write an article on solarization. Ms. Algon will write articles about the Pollinator Pathway and carp being used at Kent Pond to control the lily pads. Ms. DiLoreto will write an article on the Community Canopy. The Commission suggested that Mr. Herter write an article on the battery operated equipment he is using to clean up the parks. Mr. Conklin stated he could write an article on the upcoming charettes for the Schenck's Island Merwin Meadows Committee (SIMM). Ms. Algon noted an article could be

generated with an update on the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD), but it was decided to postpone until draft stage is complete.. Ms. DiLoreto noted she will also write an article about boxwood blight.

Mr. Conklin advised that the Townwide Clean Up Event will need to be scheduled in February. Due to the timing of school vacations and other planned town events, the event will most likely fall at the end of April or beginning of May.

- d. **POCD Discussion** – Ms. Algon confirmed there is another meeting scheduled for January 17, 2019 at 7 pm to review results from the town-wide survey completed by a third party company hired by Milone & MacBroom. Some Commissioners noted concern about the legitimacy of the company hired to do the telephone survey and the questions that were asked of them.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Meeting Minutes 12/5/18

Mr. Simone MOVED to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes as drafted, SECONDED by Mr. Lapnow and CARRIED 5-0-0.

XI. ADJOURN – Mr. Simone MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:46 p.m., SECONDED by Ms. Algon and CARRIED 5-0-0.

Next meeting will be February 6, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Larkin, Secretary, Environmental Affairs